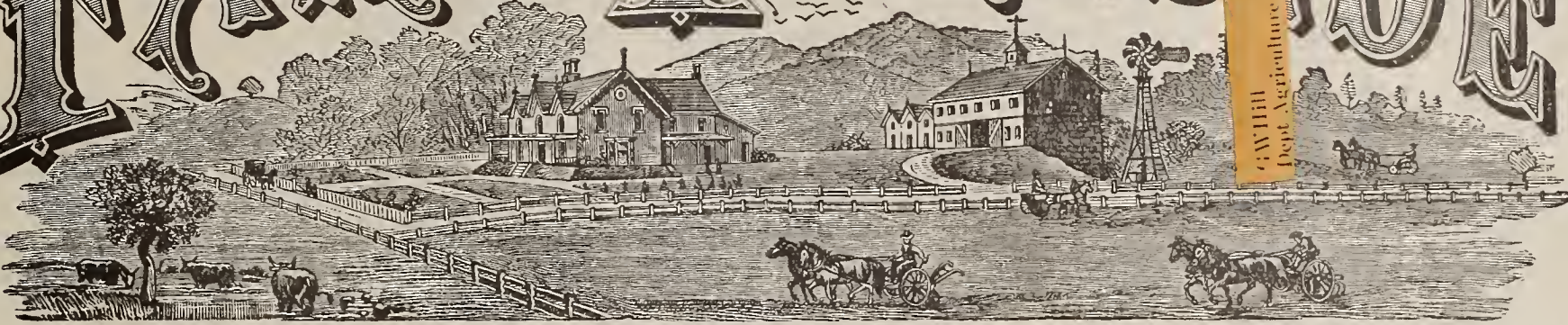


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FARM AND FIRESIDE



WESTERN EDITION.

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One Billion, Three Hundred and Fifty-nine Million, Four Hundred and Fifty-eight Thousand and Forty-nine Dollars was the total value of the farm products in eleven of the leading agricultural States for 1897, according to the United States Department of Agriculture at Washington. All of this vast sum went

Into the Farmers' Pockets

Advertisers who want to reach the farmers will realize that this money has raised mortgages everywhere, and left a substantial balance for the purchase of many luxuries, as well as necessities. It simply means that judicious advertising will appeal to a class with plenty of money, a condition that has not existed for many years.

The first paper to consider in agricultural advertising is

Farm and Fireside,

which has always paid the largest dividend to advertisers. It brings sure returns at the lowest rate, circulation considered, which is

335,550 average circulation per issue past three months. Over 1,500,000 readers.

Two grand editions—Eastern and Western. Let us send you rates.

prevent a waste of road improvement funds. Every dollar spent must be made to produce a dollar's worth of improvement. The roads first to be improved are those leading from the farm to the market and the railway stations, the roads over which the farmer hauls his produce, and by the improvement of which millions upon millions of dollars can be saved him each year. This must not be forced upon him; the farmer himself must have the initiative and must determine what improvements shall be made. Laws for road improvement must be permissive in their nature, not mandatory. This is the system of state aid which is so popular with New Jersey farmers, and which it is our policy to introduce in other states.

"Any policy of road improvement which is not in the farmer's interest is not our policy. We do not propose to see roads built at the farmer's expense for the benefit of those who take no part in paying for such improvement, and any man or body of men seeking to establish such a policy, whether they be real estate companies, bicycle clubs, or any others, will find us in opposition, standing shoulder to shoulder with the farmers."

AFTER an extended trip to and through Cuba Senator Proctor made a statement to the Senate of his observations on the island. His simple and straightforward recital of facts is of thrilling interest from beginning to end, and forms a powerful plea for American intervention in behalf of the Cubans. The few extracts for which we have space hardly do justice to the full statement.

"Everything seems to go on much as usual in Havana. Quiet prevails, and except for the frequent squads of soldiers marching to guard and police duty and their abounding presence in all public places, one sees little signs of war.

"Outside Havana all is changed. It is not peace, nor is it war. It is desolation and distress, misery and starvation. Every town and village is surrounded by a trocha (trench), a sort of rifle-pit, but constructed on a plan new to me, the dirt being thrown up on the inside and a barbed-wire fence on the outer side of the trench. These trochas have at every corner and at frequent intervals along the sides what are there called forts, but which are really small blockhouses, many of them more like a large sentry-box, loopholed for musketry, and with a guard of from two to ten soldiers in each. The purpose of these trochas is to keep the reconcentrados in as well as to keep the insurgents out. From all the surrounding country the people have been driven into these fortified towns, and held there to subsist as they can. They are virtually prison-yards and not unlike one in general appearance, except the walls are not so high and strong; but they suffice, where every point is in range of a soldier's rifle, to keep in the poor reconcentrado women and children. Every railroad station is within one of these trochas and has an armed guard. Every train has an armored freight-car, loopholed for musketry, and filled with soldiers, and with, as I observed usually and was informed is always the case, a pilot engine a mile or so in advance. There are frequent blockhouses inclosed by a trocha and with a guard along the railroad track.

"With this exception there is no human life or habitation between these fortified towns and villages, and throughout the whole of the four western provinces, except to a very limited extent among the hills, where the Spaniards have not been able to go and drive the people to the towns and burn their dwellings, I saw no house or hut in the four hundred miles of railroad rides from Pinar del Rio Province in the west across the full width of Havana and Matanzas Provinces, and to Sagua la Grande on the north shore and to Cienfuegos on the south shore of Santa Clara, except within the Spanish trochas.

"There are no domestic animals or crops on the rich fields and pastures, except such as are under guard in the immediate vicinity of the towns. In other words, the Spaniards hold in these four western provinces just

what their army sits on. Every man, woman and child, and every domestic animal, whatever their columns have reached, is under guard and within their so-called fortifications. To describe one place is to describe all. To repeat, it is neither peace nor war. It is concentration and desolation. This is the 'pacified' condition of the four western provinces.

"I could not believe that out of 1,600,000 population 200,000 had died within these Spanish forts—practically prison walls—within a few months past from actual starvation and diseases caused by insufficient and improper food. My inquiries were entirely outside of sensational sources. They were made of our medical officers, of our consuls, of city alcaldes (mayors), of relief committees, of leading merchants and bankers, physicians and lawyers. Several of my informants were Spanish born, but every time the answer was that the case has not been overstated. What I saw I cannot tell so that others can see it. It must be seen with one's own eyes to be realized.

"The dividing lines between parties are the most straight and clear cut that have ever come to my knowledge. The division in our war was by no means so clearly defined. It is Cuban against Spaniard. It is practically the entire Cuban population on one side and the Spanish army and the Spanish citizens on the other. I do not count the autonomists in this division, as they are thus far too inconsiderable in number to be worth counting. General Blanco filled the civil offices with men who had been autonomists and were still classed as such. But the march of events had satisfied most of them that the chance for autonomy came too late. It falls as talk of compromise would have fallen the last year or two of our war. If it succeeds, it can only be by armed force, but the triumph of the Spanish army and the success of Spanish arms would be easier by Weyler's policy and method, for in that the Spanish army and people believe.

"To me the strongest appeal is not the barbarity practiced by Weyler nor the loss of the Maine, if our worst fears should prove true, terrible as are both of these incidents, but the spectacle of a million and a half people, the entire native population of Cuba, struggling for freedom and deliverance from the worst misgovernment of which I ever had knowledge. But whether our action ought not to be influenced by any or all these things, and if so how far, is another question. I am not in favor of annexation, not because I would apprehend any particular trouble from it, but because it is not wise policy to take in any people of foreign tongue and training and without any strong-guiding American element. The fear that if free the people of Cuba would be revolutionary is not so well founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable. The large number of educated and patriotic men, the great sacrifices they have endured, the peaceable temperament of the people, whites and blacks, the wonderful prosperity that would surely come with peace and good home-rule, the large influx of American and English immigration and money, would all be strong factors for stable institutions.

"But it is not my purpose at this time, nor do I consider it my province to suggest any plan. I merely speak of the symptoms as I saw them, but do not undertake to prescribe. Such remedial steps as may be required may safely be left to an American president and the American people."

WITH cultivators of the soil the period of spring work is always a period of hopefulness. There is something in the season, or in contact with freshly turned earth, that inspires hope. Minds are turned from the work and rewards of the past toward the coming harvest. This year there is cause for more hopefulness than farmers have had for several years past. Prices of many farm products are better, and the outlook is promising. In prices of staple articles there is a notable combination of strength and steadiness. The strength of the upward movement in prices is most encouraging.

WITH THE VANGUARD

IN an address before the annual national assembly of the League of American Wheelmen, Mr. Otto Dörner, who is at the head of the good-roads work by that organization, said in part:

"Farmers have been skeptical about the good-roads agitation conducted by the L. A. W., and with reason. The farmers constitute but a fraction of the population, yet they have had to build roads for all of us to use. They have struggled along at the roads, doing the best they could in their own peculiar way, and when city people and wheelmen began to contend that the country roads should be radically improved, farmers have very naturally been led to believe that their burden of responsibility was to be increased and that their road taxes were to be multiplied, while the extent and character of the proposed improvements were to be dictated to them. They have felt it unjust that they alone should be expected to grid-iron the United States with stone roads at their own expense, while the construction of canals has been heavily subsidized, while rivers have been made navigable by the government, and while untold millions have been showered upon railroads by cities, villages, counties, states and nation in stock and bond subscriptions, cash donations and grants of boundless tracts of public lands. This sense of injustice has been at the root of the farmers' skepticism of the good-roads movement.

"But it is not the purpose of the League of American Wheelmen to have the farmer bear the cost of road improvement and to take its control out of the farmers' hands. We believe that the farmer should have a great deal, yes, nearly everything, to say upon the subject. We believe that the cities should stand their share of the cost of good roads. This is the purpose of our efforts for state aid. Our aim is to see a liberal share of the expense paid out of the state tax, a large part of which would be paid by the large corporations and wealthy capitalists, all of whom will be benefited by good roads, both directly and indirectly. Proper supervision should be established to

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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Payment, when sent by mail, should be made in Express or Post-office Money-orders, Bank Checks or Drafts. WHEN NEITHER OF THESE CAN BE PROCURED, send the money in a registered letter. All postmasters are required to register letters whenever requested to do so. DO NOT SEND CHECKS ON BANKS IN SMALL TOWNS.

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The date on the "yellow label" shows the time to which each subscriber has paid. Thus: apr 98, means that the subscription is paid up to April, 1898; may 98, to May, 1898, and so on.

When money is received, the date will be changed within four weeks, which will answer for a receipt.

When renewing your subscription, do not fail to say it is a renewal. If all our subscribers will do this, a great deal of trouble will be avoided. Also give your name and initials just as now on the yellow address label; don't change it to some other member of the family; if the paper is not coming in your wife's name, sign her name, just as it is on the label, to your letter of renewal. Always name your post-office.

The Advertisers in This Paper.

We believe that all the advertisements in this paper are from reliable firms or business men, and do not intentionally or knowingly insert advertisements from any but reliable parties; if subscribers find any of them to be otherwise we should be glad to know it. Always mention this paper when answering advertisements, as advertisers often have different things advertised in several papers.

NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Profitable Poultry Rations. Whether to bring up our chicks on whole grains or on ground

stuff has for a long time been the question. I myself have wavered long between the two extremes. More than twenty years ago I concocted "standard" chicken food by mixing corn-meal, middlings, bran, animal meal, etc., which I made into a thin batter with sour milk, and then baked in a hot oven. This cake has always given me the best of satisfaction in health and growth of the chicks. It was crumbled up dry, or if too dry, first slightly moistened. Sometimes I mixed the crumbled mass with Dutch cheese. A pinch of salt, and pepper in more liberal amount, was frequently added. After some years I began to feed whole wheat, and finding it a safe food, even for newly hatched chicks, went almost to the extreme of the exclusive use of this grain for chicken feed. With wheat advancing in price, again I have returned to my "standard" cake, and with some slight variations shall stick to it for the present. Granulated oats, which is used by many breeders, is rather expensive and less satisfactory in results than my cake.

The New York experiment station at Geneva, as reported in bulletin No. 126, has tried by a series of feeding experiments to settle the question whether ground grain or whole grain is more profitable as a food for chicks and capons. One lot of chicks was raised entirely on whole or cracked oats, wheat, corn and barley, with some skim-milk, fresh-cut bone and dried blood additional to narrow the nutritive ratio. Another lot of chicks were raised on a mixture of two parts by weight of corn-meal, two parts wheat bran and one part each of wheat middlings, old-process linseed-meal and ground oats. This was supplemented by skim-milk, dried blood and additional amounts daily of corn-meal and ground oats. The station comes to the conclusion that the ground feed was the cheaper and more profitable one, the chicks raised on it reaching one pound weight in six weeks, at a cost of three cents for food, while the chicks fed with whole grains required seven weeks to reach one pound weight, at a cost of three and seven tenths cents for food. The chicks did eat more of the ground stuff, but at smaller expense, as

the mixture of ground feeds is cheaper than whole grains.

In the popular edition of bulletin No. 126 no mention is made of the prices of the grains then ruling. This is a point that, of course, has a great deal to do with the question. When I can get fairly good, clean wheat (not screenings) at fifty cents a bushel I think I should always use it largely for chicks, and for old fowls, too. At \$1 a bushel we cannot afford to feed this grain very freely. For the very young chicks I doubt whether there ever was a better feed invented than my "standard" cake. Of course, chicks confined in brooders indoors must or should have some green stuff—clover-leaves, chopped onion-tops, chick-weed and other weeds, lettuce, etc.—and at all times very sharp grit in very small pieces, such as pounded snail-shells, etc.

The following are the general conclusions reached by the Geneva station: "The ground-grain ration proved considerably more profitable than the whole-grain ration with the growing chicks; and the same was true of capons of equal weight from these chicks and from others of equal weight and age fed alike before caponizing. No difference was noticed in health or vigor of chicks or capons fed either ration, but all made good gains and returned a fair margin of profit at the ordinary prices." Some years ago the Geneva station kept a lot of laying hens on nothing but bran, in confinement, and reported good results. I believe this would be a safe enough feed where poultry are given free range.

The Beet-sugar Outlook. Director Jordan, of the Geneva, N. Y., station, takes a very conservative view of the beet-sugar question. His sentiments, expressed in bulletin No. 135, do not differ in their main points from mine offered in these columns some months ago. Dr. Jordan finds indications that "our soils and climate are favorable to the growth of beets which are satisfactory in quantity and quality," and that "by proper methods the best farmers may possibly produce, in favorable seasons, from fifteen to eighteen tons of high-grade beets," although the average crop will doubtless be considerably below this. Dr. Jordan has (justly) a very high opinion of the capacity of the American farmer. He says: "In intelligence, industry and capacity to master the details of new methods, even expert methods, he is not excelled by the farmers of any civilized country. We may expect, moreover, that the inventive genius of the American manufacturers will meet the farmer half way in providing the implements necessary to cheap culture. . . It will be an undoubted gain, also, if we can add another cash crop to those which we already regard as yielding fair returns for the labor expended and a moderate rental for the land. Crops which find a steady sale at living prices are needed by the American farmer. Every new, successful crop also tends to prevent overproduction along other lines."

On the other hand, Dr. Jordan sees fit to add some words of warning and caution. In the first place, he fears that our average crops (and they are always very low) will not go much over the average beet yields in the old beet-producing countries, Belgium and Germany (eleven to thirteen and one half tons an acre), and that New York farmers, if they enter upon this field, will have occasion to congratulate themselves if for the first two or three years they reach an average of twelve tons of high-grade product an acre. Still further, it must be remembered that it is necessary for the farmer and the manufacturer to be mutually prosperous, and there certainly are some facts which seem to warrant careful consideration by the farmer of the manufacturers' side of the business. "There is great danger that much of the capital which is likely to be invested in this new enterprise will be inefficiently directed. The manufacture of beet-sugar is something with which eastern business men have had no experience, and no careful study of means and methods will take the place of the knowledge which comes from experience. Disasters to capital, which may cause losses to farmers, are to be feared. It behooves business men, therefore, to proceed with the erection of beet-sugar factories with great caution, and only after the most exhaustive study of the problems involved.

"Doubtless farmers will be invited to invest in beet-sugar factory stock. They will be told not only that the stock will be profitable, but also that it is their duty to share in the risks. They should be very careful in this matter. If the professional boomer appears among them, they should give him a wide berth. He may be resourceful in plausible argument, and it may be hard to resist the fascination of his apparently sound reasoning; but unless the farmers resist his appeals, history will repeat itself, and shares of worthless stock will be very widely distributed among those who cannot afford to suffer the loss. This does not mean that under certain other conditions farmers may not wisely own a share of the factory. If local business men of unquestioned integrity and sound business judgment take the lead in the new enterprise—men who as the directors of banks and other financial organizations have won the confidence of the community by their successful and honorable methods—then, perhaps, the farmer may safely intrust his money to them in this enterprise as in some other."

Cost of Growing Sugar-beets. The two acres of sugar-beets grown at Geneva, New York, yielded about fifteen tons of topped roots an acre, worth, at \$4 a ton, about \$60, or at \$5 a ton, \$75 an acre. Based on what the station calls "cheap labor," but which seems to me a very fair compensation, namely, 75 cents a day for hand labor and \$3 a day for the team, the station figures out the cost of growing the beets at \$54.30 an acre. This would surely leave more than a fair margin of profit, especially when we consider that this statement of expense contains an item of \$10 for fertilizers, and that such yearly application, with the necessary thorough cultivation, would inevitably increase the productive capacity of the soil and its selling value at a very rapid rate. I can only repeat that if I had suitable soil, and a factory near me insuring me \$5 a ton for beets, I would engage in sugar-beet growing to the fullest extent practicable. I would not hesitate a minute to plant twenty, thirty or more acres, and do that much more hopefully than I would plant half that number of acres or less to potatoes.

A General Garden Fertilizer. The fertilizer used in these beet-growing experiments consisted of the following:

Sulphate of potash.....	250 lbs.,	50 per cent	K ₂ O
Acid rock.....	300 "	14 "	P ₂ O ₅
Dried blood.....	200 "	10 "	N
Nitrate of soda.....	200 "	15 "	N
Total.....	950 lbs.		

Such a fertilizer, if bought at current wholesale rates, would cost not less than \$35 a ton, and if bought ready mixed from fertilizer manufacturers, probably not less than \$42 to \$45 a ton. It analyzes about 5¼ per cent of nitrogen, 4½ of soluble phosphoric acid, and 13 per cent potash, and seems to me a safe fertilizer for general garden use where the land is not already well supplied with potash. It will be seen that the station was not afraid to use nitrate of soda, notwithstanding the prejudice frequently met with against the use of nitrate of soda for crops in which the full development of starch or sugar is desired. I think smaller amounts of nitrate of soda, say up to 200 pounds to the acre, and of muriate of potash as well, are probably entirely safe for any crop on soil where the application of nitrogen or of potash is required.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Applying Stable Manure. C. K., Indiana, writes: "I have about fifty loads of manure in the barn-yard, some of it not very well rotted. Would you spread it on corn-land now, or let it lay until next fall and rot? I have the time to draw it out now, but have heard that it is not a good idea to spread manure on corn-land in the spring; also that all manure should be well rotted before it is applied to the land. I have saved about a good wagon-load of hen manure this winter; where would you put it, on the land or in the yard with the coarse manure?"

When I was a small boy father used to get all of the manure out of the barn-yard, hen-house and pig-pens and clean them up in great shape every spring. All of this manure would be piled up in a great rick in the field near the yards to rot and get

itself into what was then considered the proper condition for applying to the land. If we had a rainy spell after this manure was ricked up we were not allowed to sit down and get rusty, but we were permitted to tackle the rick with forks and turn it over to encourage evenness in rotting. That was in the days of yore, when a farmer was expected to be a simple-minded, steady-working yokel with more brawn than brains. Rotting the manure in a rick and turning it for exercise was then supposed to be a sure indication that a farmer was onto his job, and knew that one and one made two. Also that he was industrious and never allowed the grass to grow under his feet.

Things have changed since that time. Instead of allowing the manure to lie in the yards all summer and lose three fourths of its value, as was then done by the thriftless, or piling it up in a rick to rot and lose two thirds of its most valuable constituents, as was then done by the hustler, we now load it into wagons direct from the stables, or as soon as we can get it in the yards, and apply it directly to the land. By doing this we save, or get into the land, every atom of value, and also save the cost of three or four unnecessary handlings.

Stable manure should go direct from the stable to the land, whenever possible, winter and summer. Yard manure should go from the yard to the land as soon as it is made; that is, when it is no longer bedding. Get it on the land now. That is the place for it. It might be possible that a heavy application of coarse manure to sandy soil in the spring would, if the season be drouthy, be injurious, but on heavy or clay soil it would be all right and beneficial in every respect.

Now as to the Hen Manure. C. K. should not have "saved" it, but applied it direct to the land whenever he cleaned out the poultry-house. Scatter all poultry manure on the land at once, and scatter it thinly. I would not apply much of it to the garden in spring, but a heavy application dug or plowed in late in Autumn is very beneficial, especially if it is mixed with about twice its bulk of fine stable or pig-pen manure.

What is wanted in the soil of the garden is not only nitrogen, potash and phosphoric acid, but large quantities of humus to lighten this soil. One of the best things to make humus for a garden soil that I have ever tried is corn-stalks. When they have been trampled by stock all summer they are rotted and well broken up by autumn, and they should then be spread on the soil and plowed in.

Surface-drains. We do not know what sort of a season we will have this year, whether it will be wet or dry; but it is a good idea when plowing the corn-ground to keep the drains open. Some farmers think it wasteful to open a drain that will occupy the space of a row of corn, and so they plow the entire field level and fill up the furrows. If the season turns out wet the water stands in the low places and whole acres are drowned out. All ditches leading from low places in the fields should be left wide open and deep, and be kept so through the season.

When the fall from a low spot is rapid, and the land washes badly, a wide, shallow ditch should be opened and sowed to red-top and timothy. The strip should be wide enough to make about two swaths with a mower, then the grass and weeds can be kept down without difficulty and a tough sod made.

One farmer of my acquaintance has a shallow ravine running through his land, and for several years the water passing down this ravine cut and gullied it out so badly that he could not drive across it. A few years ago he plowed, scraped and harrowed it smooth immediately after the spring rains were over, then sowed it with blue-grass. The sods were cut four inches wide and twelve long, and were placed about a foot apart and pressed well down into the mellow soil with the foot. Then a strip ten feet in width was sown thickly with red-top and the whole rolled down with a heavy roller. By autumn the hollow was matted with a tough sod that the water ran over without marking, and it is smooth to this day. He kept it mowed smooth the first year, and every year since, until September, when the blue-grass is allowed to grow. The red-top has disappeared, being run out by the blue-grass.

FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

SOD FOR CORN.—Indian corn is a gross feeder. It thrives on organic matter in the first stages of fermentation. Some kinds of plants need thoroughly rotted vegetable matter, but the fresh sod and fresh stable manure alike meet the requirements of the young corn-plant. For this reason we would like to delay plowing a sod-field until near planting-time, thereby securing the largest possible amount of growth for turning under. In its immediate decay there is increased warmth of the soil, which favors the corn-plant, and available plant-food is secured. But there is another factor to be considered. The supply of moisture in the soil is the first consideration, and a late-broken sod is not retentive of moisture. There is not a close union of the broken soil with the subsoil, from which water rises during drouths, and the broken sod is more open. In view of all this there can be no general rule for all kinds of soils. Where drouth is often severe, it pays to break sod-land for corn very early in the spring. While losing some plant-food more moisture is secured. Moist soils are plowed late with much advantage to the succeeding crop.

MANURING CORN-LAND.—A heavy sod is the cheapest source of vegetable matter for corn-plants. A clover sod is better than timothy, because it furnishes more nitrogen, and corn requires this element in large amounts. But a timothy sod very naturally precedes corn in most crop rotations, and it needs an addition of some kind of manure, either barn-yard or artificial. A common mistake is to graze the sod closely the fall before breaking, with the idea that all the stock gets from the land is just so much gained. There is no greater error. The land is usually deficient in humus, and very often the fall growth of grass would be worth more to the ground than it is to live-stock. The soil cannot be robbed with profit to its owner. Stable manure is especially good for corn, because it is rich in nitrogen and because it furnishes organic matter. A given amount of manure does more good when applied fresh from the stable as a top-dressing to plowed land than in any other way. But it is impracticable to handle much manure in this way. We must then find the next best way.

PLOWING MANURE UNDER.—The most of the manure must be drawn in the summer, fall or winter. It is not practicable to save and apply it after a sod has been broken. The old practice of drawing it in the summer and putting it into small piles in the field has been abandoned. Such a method means waste of manure and a waste of labor. Covering a sod immediately before breaking is equally wasteful. The manure goes into the bottom of the furrow and the fertility leaches into the subsoil. The best way, as a rule, is to draw manure fast as made and scatter on the sod. The soluble portion thus leaches into the sod and the other acts as a mulch for the grass. A greater growth is secured for turning under, and the strength of the manure is kept in the top soil, where it is most needed by corn-roots. Top-dressing of sod-land in fall or winter for late spring plowing is the cheapest and most satisfactory way of manuring for corn on most farms. Where the supply of manure is very great it may be good practice to plow under an application freshly made to the ground, but it is an extravagant practice for those whose supply of manure is not excessive.

MAKING A SEED-BED.—Half the cultivation of a corn crop should be given before the seed is put into the ground. The sod cannot be torn to pieces too thoroughly. Where there are no stones in the ground a disk-harrow does superior work to a spring-tooth on an inverted sod. Thorough pulverization makes plant-food available and fits the soil to hold moisture. We may be in too great haste to plant. While early planting is usually best, the first thing is to fit the ground for planting. When this work is done thoroughly, after-cultivation of sod-land may be chiefly to prevent a crust from forming on the surface and to prevent weeds from starting. In tight clay soils some deep cultivation

may be a necessity early in the season, but corn does best on land that has been made loose by the use of heavy sods and stable manure. Where the soil has the proper mechanical condition, the roots of the plants should not be broken by repeated deep tillage. The soil is for the use of the roots. These roots soon fill the middles when left undisturbed. Our business is to make a fine seed-bed, and then when plants are up keep moisture in by surface-cultivation.

CORN FOR SILAGE.—We have gotten away from the false idea that the feeding value of an acre of corn depends upon its weight when placed in the silo. The quality of the silage is the important point. The truth is now accepted that corn for silage should not be much thicker on the ground than corn for the crib. There should be a fair ear on every stalk. The corn should not be cut until it is nearly ripe enough for the shock. Some increase in amount of the product is secured, due to slightly thicker planting, but the chief gain in silage is the increased palatability of the feed. All the stalk is saved in digestible form. The butt is nutritious when saved in a silo; there is no loss. In the dairy the silage tempts the cows to heavier eating, and the milk product is thus increased. Herein are the gains, and not so much in increased volume of feed secured from an acre. Thick planting of corn for silage is a serious mistake. The sunlight cannot enter to give quality to the forage. There is too little grain produced.



GINSENG—FOLIAGE AND BERRIES.

numerous class. With the disappearance of the great forests the supply of the natural product has been rapidly exhausted, and these people find their occupation almost gone. Very recently the cultivation of the plant has received sufficient attention in this locality to demonstrate that it can be done with ease and profit, and now we have here a "sang" farm. Last year a thrifty and very practical German, who owns a tract of 160 acres of timbered land in Indiana, began the experiment by transplanting 1,200 roots and planting 15,000 seeds. His venture was a success. This season he will plant another acre, and his ultimate plan and purpose is to devote his entire lands to this culture.

The rich soil of a dense, hard-wood forest is the natural home of this very tender plant, which cannot endure the summer sunshine. It makes its appearance late in the spring season, and its development is rapid. When fully expanded it is a beautiful plant with small, white, inodorous flowers. At three years old it is from eight to twelve inches high and has from three to five leaves rising on long foot-stalks from the top of the main stem. Each leaf is composed of five leaflets. From their axes rises a short stem on which the flower-head grows. The bloom appears in July, and the fruit, a scarlet berry one eighth of an inch in diameter, ripens in September. In the fleshy pulp of each berry three round, hard seeds are imbedded. All the plant above ground dies after the first



GINSENG-PLANT.



GINSENG—THE "MAN-ROOT."

The quality of each stalk, and not the number of stalks only, is the prime consideration. DAVID.

GINSENG.

Can ginseng be cultivated with profit to the grower? This question, often asked, we believe has been satisfactorily answered. The product, the root of a species of *Panax* in the natural order of *Araliaceae*, is a very celebrated Chinese "medicine-plant," highly prized for its traditional supernatural influence on the human system, in preventing plagues, restoring lost virility and prolonging life. The plant has been known and used in China for centuries, and there its culture and sale are matters of government control. American ginseng, the *Panax quinquefolium* of Linnaeus, was first discovered by the whites, and its close resemblance to the Chinese plant, in appearance and qualities, was revealed to them in 1718. Its use as a substitute for the foreign product dates from about that time. Indians knew the plant, but their "medicine men" thought that it was a useless weed; physicians of this country consider it of no value for remedial uses, and it is only in the "Celestial" empire that it is regarded as a panacea for all human ills. There, as here, it is a characteristic of the root of this plant to assume a shape closely resembling the human figure, and for that reason, probably, the Chinese call it the "man-root."

The steady demand and the high prices paid for the dried product in China—varying from six dollars an ounce upward, according to the shape, size and firmness of the root—have fixed its position as an important article of our commerce, and in recent years the annual exports have exceeded four million pounds. The demand for export purposes soon became so good that "sang-digging" came to be a steady and profitable industry in the heavily timbered regions of this country, and the "sang-diggers" formed a distinct and

sharp autumnal frost. In cultivation, to plant one acre requires 40,000 seeds, costing \$85. After germinating, the plant has a very tardy growth, and from five to seven years are required for it to fully mature. When matured, each healthy root will weigh from one half to three ounces; to be of the best marketable value, each should weigh at least two ounces. The best quality is found, when properly dried, in hard, brittle, translucent, resinous pieces, about the size of the little finger and from two to four inches in length. The taste is sweetish, slightly bitter, mucilaginous and aromatic.

The plants are set ten inches apart, with a space of twelve inches between each row, and where there is no forest shade they are sheltered by movable frame covers. The seeds are planted as soon as they are gathered, two inches deep in beds of loamy soil, enriched by natural fertilizers, and in dry seasons they must be well watered, as in growing the evaporation of moisture is very rapid. It requires about eighteen months for the seeds to germinate—they can neither be forced nor coaxed. At the close of the first season after sprouting the seedling will have one small leaf and, if healthy, it will bear seed of its own in three years. The roots are gathered after the fruit has ripened, and this work is done with great care. The flesh is juicy, brittle and tender, and they must be taken out whole. The adhering soil is removed with a brush, as washing with water retards the drying and renders the roots spongy and of less value in the market. They are best when dried in the open sunshine, but for this purpose artificial heat may be applied. The older the plant the better the root is regarded for medicinal use.

Indiana.

JOHN AULD FORSYTHE.

WEEDERS.

When used at the right time, on soils to which they are adapted, there is no implement now on the market so effective as a weed-killer as the improved weeder.

CULTIVATION OF GINSENG.

American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolium*) grows wild in a large part of the country east of the Mississippi, and for many years has afforded means of livelihood to hundreds of families in this territory. The constant demand and the comparatively high prices paid for it have, however, tended to reduce the native supply, more especially since the "sang-diggers" exercise no judgment as to the time of digging. In a few states laws prohibit the digging of ginseng during the growing season, because, since it propagates naturally only by means of its seeds, all chance of reproduction is destroyed if the root is dug before the seed ripens—September. Dealers in this root acknowledge that they still obtain a supply, but that it comes from more and more remote districts each year.

These conditions have led many men to experiment in ginseng-growing, with the result that it has been frequently declared impracticable. But with a thorough knowledge of the habits of the plant and a just attention to its needs it can be raised with profit. Without this attention failure is certain, since there is perhaps no plant that is so exacting as to culture conditions.

Periodically and spasmodically the newspapers publish exaggerated reports of the immense consumption of ginseng in the Orient, of the exports from this country, and of the yield obtained from a small bed specially cared for by some farmer, but without mentioning this special care. From these unreliable and incomplete data it is easy to calculate the vast sums that could be realized from a few acres and the wealth that would flow into our land from abroad. Sufficient replies to such statements are that an estimation of the consumption of ginseng in the Orient must always be of the wildest conjecture, since no reliable records are kept, and because a vast amount of smuggling is done; that the exports from the United States have not yet reached one million dollars, although the common figure of the press is five times that amount; and that the most successful cultivator of ginseng in America declares that cultivation upon an extensive scale is well nigh impossible. He has been growing this root with profit for more than a decade, yet his whole plantation is less than an acre.

A few points in the cultivation of ginseng may be suggestive of the attention it demands, and may strengthen what has been said above. In the first place, the seed must be eighteen months old before it will sprout; in other words, seed ripened in the autumn of 1898 will not germinate until the spring of 1900. This peculiarity involves special care in storing, or in protecting it if planted, because if once allowed to become dry it is ruined and will not grow. The soil must be like the mold of the woods—light, loose, retentive of moisture; in fact, it is better to grow the plants in the forest where these conditions prevail. If this be done, they may be stolen by sang-diggers. The plants must be provided with shade if grown in the garden, else they may die from sun-scald or from the drying out of the soil. The beds, especially the seedling-plots, must be kept clean. All weeding must be done with the fingers, since ginseng will not tolerate the use of tools. The seedlings must be transplanted at one year old to permanent beds, where the same shading and hand-weeding must be continued for four years—often more. During this time no money is earned except the last year, or perhaps two, when the few scattering seeds upon occasional, extra strong plants may bring in a few cents, even at the present price of one dollar an ounce. When the harvest comes in the fifth or sixth year from the seed (sometimes the fourth), the operation of digging, washing and curing demand special care, since the breakage of roots means a lessening in the price obtained. Besides these barely mentioned details there are others which, all taken together, will show the reader that the growing of ginseng is not the simple thing it is often said to be.

Still, in spite of all that has been said above, the cultivation of this root is, in proper hands, likely to be profitable, and since the difficulties will tend to reduce competition, the men who do make a success of raising it will most likely find it very profitable. The prospective grower need only remember that he should learn to creep before he tries to run. He may start by using the plants found in the woods, both by saving and planting the seed obtained from them and by transplanting the old roots.

M. G. KAINS.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

ONION CURING SHED.—The accompanying sketch shows the kind of shed that I use for curing my Barletta pickling-onions, and other onions as well. It is put up in the simplest manner of one by three inch slats or light scantlings, with a roof of half-inch boards. The horizontal slats are about a foot or fourteen inches apart, and between each, two vertical supports have just room enough to accommodate three of the sieves as used in the large commercial evaporators, or twelve sieves for the four shelves of each section. This will show that even a small shed of this kind can be made to hold quite a good many onions. I had over twenty bushels of these small pickling-onions in a shed no larger than the one shown in the sketch, at a time. Of course, it is necessary to spread these pickling-onions in a very shallow layer in order to cure them well and quickly.

The past season was the poorest to sell pickling-onions in all my experience. In fact, I did not make much in the transaction, the expense of seed (although less than ever before) and of labor was fully as much as the onions brought in the wholesale market. The only profit came from the few (comparatively) that were sold to retail customers by the quart. Under such circumstances it will be even more necessary than heretofore to do the work in the most expeditious manner. My plan is as follows: When most of the tops of the little bulbs have died down, the crop is pulled, or rather dug, and left in windrows on the ground to fully ripen up, at least for a few days. If the weather is fair the onions dry rapidly, and may then be raked together with a fine garden-rake and gathered up in baskets to be taken to the curing-shed. If they are all dry and clean, I run them immediately through the drum-sieve, that may be seen arranged at the end of the curing-shed (see illustration). The bulbs thus cleaned from soil and dirt, etc., are then spread out on the sieves, and these put in place on the shelves of the shed. They may remain there until thoroughly dried and cured, and are then run through the drum-sieve once more, and perhaps a third time later. The manipulation rubs off the remnants of the tops, also the dried outer skins, and leaves the onions in good shape for grading. This, of course, should be carefully attended to. The grading may be most quickly done by the use of sieves of different sizes. When pickling-onions have to be grown on rather stiff soils (soil of sandy character being always the best), at any rate, when at the time they are to be put under the curing-shed they are muddy or stuck full of dirt and little clods of soil, gravel and other rubbish mixed in with them, it will be found to be the best plan, by far, to clean them by washing. Have a tank or big tub filled with water ready, and throw a quantity of the onions into it. Stir thoroughly until the bulbs are clean and the dirt, etc., has all settled to the bottom with the sand and gravel. Take the onions off the top and spread them thinly on the sieves, putting the sieves back on their shelves under the shed. The water will quickly drain off, and the onions will dry out, white and clean, in a very few hours of fair weather, which at that time of the year is the rule. No possible harm can come to the bulbs from their bath, and I believe that this washing can be recommended in any case, whether the onions are grown on one kind of soil or another. In my own practice I find it almost always necessary or desirable. Undoubtedly, last season's experience will discourage many growers of pickling-onions. I myself shall plant a smaller area than I did then; but I hope and expect to see the former prices prevail again. We cannot grow this crop at the prices at which we had to sell them last fall.

CURING LARGE ONIONS.—This curing-shed came very handy during the frequent rains of last fall for curing my large Prize-takers and Giant Gibaltars. After two lots of Barlettas had been cured and were disposed of, the sieves were kept full of these large onions, and here they cured quickly and nicely, were always out of the rain and ready for market.

PREPARING POTATOES FOR PLANTING.—I may have told before this that my usual way of preparing Early Ohio potatoes for

planting is to expose them to moderate warmth and light by placing them in shallow boxes under the greenhouse benches. They may be kept there any desired length of time, from February until April or May. Thus the tubers are preserved in the very best possible condition for planting, and in fact, they would keep thus for an almost unlimited time if not planted. Of course, the quantity of these first early potatoes wanted for the purpose is not large; otherwise we might be short of room to store them in the greenhouse. I believe that it would be a good plan to handle all—even late—potatoes in a similar manner. In fact, it seems to me even more necessary to protect potatoes that have to be kept until late in the season for planting from the ill effects of growth in the bins.



ONION-CURING SHED.

The long, spindling sprouts produced on the tubers without roots, and therefore wholly subsisting on the mother tuber, must necessarily weaken the reproductive powers of the potato and consequently diminish the crop. It will take a lot of floor space in a light, frost-proof room or garret, however, to store the potatoes needed for planting a larger area, and I think my onion-curing shed may again be used for this very purpose to good advantage. In April, or just at the time when there is most danger of the potatoes sprouting in good earnest, I can spread my late seed-potatoes out on these sieves, or in shallow boxes with slatted bottom, and keep them exposed to the light on the shelves of the curing-shed until the time that they are wanted for planting. They may require covering during late cold spells or frosty nights, but usually there will be little danger, under a roof, from freezing at this time.

POTATO-SCAB.—One of our readers (E. S. H., of Normandy, Tenn.) asks for an extended article on potato-scab; especially is

he desirous to know how to detect scab on seed that is slightly affected; how to prevent or destroy it in both soil and seed; how far it can spread from scab-infected soil or plants; what influence soil and climate has on its development; and whether it increases in stored seed during the winter. All these are timely questions, and I will try to answer them to the best of my ability and knowledge. In the first place, we should look with some suspicion on all seed-potatoes, even if they appear free from scab. There may be infection enough on moderately clean seed to infect the entire crop, under conditions favorable to its development. For this reason I would treat all seed-potatoes for scab, but especially if any scab-marks can be seen on the potatoes. Unfortunately, the scab

would be sure death. On the other hand, you need not fear external contact with the poisonous liquid. It is used freely as a wash for wounds, and very cleansing, and you can put your hands into it without fear. Where large quantities of potatoes have to be treated, a more business-like method is as follows: Get one or more barrels. Provide each with a faucet near the bottom. Set the barrel or barrels up just high enough that the liquid inside the barrel can be drawn off into a tank or tub set underneath the faucet. The barrel is then filled with potatoes, and the solution poured over them until they are all covered. Let stand for ninety minutes, draw off the liquid, and the potatoes are ready to be emptied out, cut and planted.

SCAB IN THE SOIL.—Under ordinary conditions, namely, when the soil is reasonably free from infection, this treatment of the seed will be all sufficient to give you a crop that is practically free from scab. But where the soil itself is badly infected (and some soils seem to be filled with the fungus), the treatment of the seed alone will not amount to much. The sulphur treatment is sometimes recommended for such soils. Roll the cut seed in sulphur (flour), and strew sulphur into the furrows, at the rate of 300 pounds to the acre. This has usually given good results. But it is a rather expensive treatment, especially when the sulphur has to be bought in a retail drug-store. It is now well known that the scab fungus has very little show in acid soils. It thrives in soils of an alkaline character only. Applications of alkaline substances, such as wood-ashes, muriate of potash, lime, etc., always increase the tendency to scab, and should not be used for potatoes in excessive doses. Stable manure undoubtedly belongs to the same class. The cleanest potatoes are usually grown on soils on which a coat of green growth, such as clover, cow-peas, etc., has been plowed under, and which, for that reason, have an acid reaction. I do not know whether it is feasible to assist in making the soil acid by applications of chemicals, such as superphosphate having some free acid, sulphate of copper or iron, etc. I have made some trials, but without much definite results. Perhaps we might examine the soil by bringing a fresh, moist surface of it in contact with litmus-paper, and use such soil for potatoes without fear, if it shows by turning the blue paper to pink, or by affecting it in no way, that it has either an acid reaction or is entirely neutral. Undoubtedly the season also exerts an influence, but I do not know in what way. In some seasons potatoes seem to be more liable to grow scabby than in others, and that is all we know about it. I do not believe that the scab increases on potatoes during winter storage.

T. GREINER.

KILLING THE SCAB.—To kill the scab spores on the seed is easy enough. By soaking the potatoes about ninety minutes in a solution of corrosive sublimate they will be surely freed from all infection. Dissolve two ounces of corrosive sublimate in water, and dilute to fifteen gallons. Have this solution in a big tank or barrel, and immerse the seed in the liquid for the time mentioned, then cut and plant. I usually put a half bushel of potatoes (whole) in a coarse (phosphate) sack, and hang this into the barrel or tank, then take out, empty the potatoes into a clean receptacle, and fill the sack up with another half bushel to go through the same performance once more, etc. Corrosive sublimate is a deadly poison when taken internally. Be very careful that no stock will get to the treated seed. To eat of these potatoes, or drink of the liquid,

Farmers and Their Families

ON A FARM

BUTTER AND CHEESE TO MAKE

"EASTON, N. H., Dec. 20, 1897.

"C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.:

"Dear Sirs:—I was taken with catarrhal neuralgia and a complication of diseases



which induced nervous prostration. I was told I had catarrh of the bladder and there

was no help for me. I was run down so low there was nothing to build on. I had such light feelings in my head I

COULD HARDLY WALK

around the house. It was with difficulty that I could swallow and I think my throat came near being paralyzed. Remembering that I had once taken a few bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla with benefit I decided to try it again. When I began taking it I weighed 98 pounds. I could not stand long enough to wash my dishes. After taking Hood's Sarsaparilla awhile I weighed 139 pounds and was able to do all my work, including washings. Last summer I had eight people in my family, besides a great deal of company, and as we live on a farm I have butter and cheese to make. People who see me remark

HOW WELL I AM LOOKING

I have such faith in Hood's Sarsaparilla we all use it when we do not feel well. I tell people I keep my doctor in the house. Last winter we all had the measles, and while getting over them I took cold and would be taken with chills. I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla and it cured me." Mrs. E. E. BROWN.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is America's Greatest Medicine because it cures when all others fail. Sold by all druggists. Price \$1; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass. Get only Hood's.

Our Farm.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

ONE CAUSE OF YOUNG PEACH-TREES DYING.

It is a common complaint among fruit-growers that their peach-trees die the first or second year from planting, especially so if that person should be an amateur in the business. The loss that occurs at this age of the tree is nearly as great as from the dreaded "yellows," and to the uninitiated as much of a mystery.

If one examines his young trees about the first of September he will notice at the base of some of them a kind of a sawdust mixed with gum adhering to the bark; scrape this away and a small hole will be found extending under the bark various distances, according to the time the insect has been at work. This is the work of the borer, and if he is allowed undisputed possession he will girdle many of the trees to death. This worm is known to be the product of a moth, which lays its eggs in July and August on the bark of the tree near the base, and as they hatch work their way downward into the bark. They live in the roots of the tree nearly a year, when they inclose themselves in a pod-like case, in which they remain a few weeks, and then emerge again as a moth to again propagate their species.

A great many ways have been suggested and tried by which they may be exterminated, but only one safe method has yet been discovered of doing it, and that is to dig them out. Different kinds of washes have been tried to drive the moth away, but after it has been used, one is not satisfied until the trees have all been examined to determine its effectiveness, and this is as much trouble as though the grubs were dug out in the first place.

This season I tried a new plan of fighting the borer, at least it is new to me, and the only thing I have found effective without digging them out.

In July I turned furrows with a cultivator against the base of the trees and left them in that position till the first of September; then I removed the soil to a little below the level of the surface. As the eggs are deposited at the surface, the larvæ will be exposed to the elements and unable to reach the roots.

I thoroughly examined my trees the first of November, and where the mounds were properly formed I did not find a single borer, but a few of the trees were not mounded and I found the pests in nearly every tree.

Whether this method is effective every time I am unable to say, but it is so simple and easy that it is not a great loss should it fail at a future trial. But I am certain I have had less trouble from the borer this year than ever before.

B. A. Wood.

Kalamazoo county, Mich.

[This method of protecting peach-trees from borers was very warmly advocated many years ago, but it was found that while the borers preferred to lay their eggs close to the ground, where the bark is soft, and would keep away from the trees that were mounded up if there were others nearby in which they could lay their eggs close to the ground, yet if all the trees in an orchard were mounded up, the moths would lay their eggs in the bark above the mounds, as occasionally they lay their eggs in the branches of trees. The only practical remedy we have for the peach and other borers is to apply poisonous washes, and to dig out those the washes fail to keep away.—Ed.]

IMPROVED STRAWBERRY-PLANTING.

More expense is incurred in cultivating a spring-set strawberry-bed during its first six weeks of growth than at any other period of its existence. The plants must have attention, and that at the busiest season of the year, or else they will be choked out by weeds. A simple practical method that has been tested by the writer and used in one of the strawberry belts of New York is as follows:

In the spring the young plants are taken from the field, trimmed of dead leaves and the roots shortened to three and one half to four inches. This shortening is quickly done. Grasp the plant, leaves up, with the left hand, so that the collar is just above the first finger, bring the roots together by closing the fingers around them, and cut

off all that hangs below the little finger. The plants are then set an inch asunder in rows one foot apart in a bed of rich, loamy soil. Shade is provided until they have become established, and a mulch of well-rotted manure free from long straw is applied to check evaporation and to add some plant-food. In this bed the plants remain for a month or six weeks, being sprayed with Bordeaux mixture every ten days or so, and watered when necessary. When they are to be taken up, the ground is thoroughly soaked, the plants lifted, set close together on trays and taken to the field. By this method a remarkable root-system is obtained and there is no check when the plants are set in the field.

The field is meantime plowed and harrowed at any time that suits the grower. A weeder is also run over it every week or ten days and after every rain to kill the sprouting weeds, to keep the surface open and to expose grubs and worms for the birds to eat. When the plants are ready, they have a mellow, warm bed to start in, very different from the cold soil of April, which is often of necessity plowed too wet and in which the plants frequently make a poor start. In other respects the treatment is the same as in ordinary strawberry-beds.

Other advantages are gained by this method. First among these is the ease with which the plants are sprayed for disease. Being close together, the time required and the quantity of fungicide needed are very small in comparison to the same items in field plantations. This makes a double saving; first, in the outlay for material, and second, in the cost of applying it. Again, no further spraying, as a general rule, need be done the first year, unless the plants be set in infected soil. The method also allows more leisure in the planting, since the rush of spring

work is largely over at the time of setting. Again, tardy and badly packed shipments from the nurseryman may be treated according to this plan, and what would most likely prove a loss in the field may frequently be prevented. Further, plants as good as if grown in pots may be obtained ready for sale to those amateurs who think of setting a strawberry-bed only when they eat the berries. These advantages, or some of them, will commend the plan to the strawberry-grower.

M. G. KAINS.

FRUIT-LADDER.

The fruit-ladder shown in the accompanying illustration can be made of any tough pole of the desired length and size. Before ripping the pole bore holes for the rungs. A is a bolt to prevent splitting. In use, B will fit any crotch of the tree, and C C will rest upon the ground, and not upon one leg, like common ladders.

ORCHARD CORRESPONDENCE.

HANDY IMPLEMENT FOR PRUNING TREES.—G. A. M., Peckville, Pa., writes: "I have a good pony-saw, a good trimming-saw, a good chisel, 1½ inches wide, with a four-foot handle, and a mallet. This latter is for cutting off limbs from one inch and under. It is well to make two cuts; first, leave a stub a half inch or so, then either the flat side or the bevel side will fit close down to the rings on the limb next the tree, which is the proper place to cut. After it is done, seal over the wounds with a thin grafting-wax or thick paint, and you will always be satisfied with the work. The wounds will heal over more in one year than it can in three years, if the wounds are left exposed to the air."

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Planting Fruit-trees.—J. R., Cincinnati, Ohio. The land should be thoroughly plowed and worked up into a condition good enough for a good crop of corn before planting. The number of trees that you should plant on it will, of course, depend on the kind you want to set out, which you fail to mention. The trees should be planted about the time the land is dried out enough to work well, probably about the middle of April would be about the right time in your section.

Setting Out Trees in June.—Mrs. H. A. L., New York City. June is too late to set out trees, as they should be in full leaf by that time. In your section the first of May is about the right time for planting trees. This calls to mind that an acquaintance of mine wanted four shrubs late in June of last year. I had my foreman make a box for each shrub about eighteen inches square and nearly as deep. I took off the bottom, and sunk a box

carefully around each shrub where it grew in the nursery, put on the bottoms, and after a few days put in the shade; with careful watering they moved very easily and grew well all summer. While such things can be done as matters of curiosity largely, they are impracticable for general use.

Red-cedar Seedling.—C. T. H., Spink, N. D. Soak the red-cedar seed in strong lye for four hours. Then take it out, wash and rub against a sieve to take off the fleshy covering, mix the seed with sand in a box and bury box with seed in it outdoors until spring, when it should be planted in a somewhat protected place and shaded with a screen to keep off about one half the sunlight. It seldom comes well until the second year.

Chestnut Seedlings.—E. H., South Haven, Mich. Chestnuts are most likely to grow well when they are planted in the fall. They may, however, be kept over winter by using great care to keep them cold and moist enough to prevent their molding or drying out. The nuts bought at the stores in the spring would probably fail to grow on account of being too dry. It is one of the most difficult of tree-seeds to keep over winter.

Insects in Quinces.—O. E. D., New Britain, Conn. The trouble you have with your quinces is very likely caused by a curculio, but may be done by several other insects. I think your safest remedy would be to spray the young fruit with Bordeaux mixture, to which has been added Paris green at the rate of one small teaspoonful to two gallons of the mixture. This material will also have a tendency to protect from scab and blight. Spray as soon as the flowers fall, and often enough afterwards to keep young fruit covered with it.

Grafting Mulberries and Cherries.—M. P. B., West Monterey, Pa. (1) The varieties of the mulberry may be quite readily grafted by using the same methods as are commonly practiced on the apple and pear. I should think in your section it ought to be perfectly safe to use scions cut in the spring. In colder sections I should prefer to cut scions in the latter part of autumn, and winter them over in a cold cellar. (2) The scions of sour cherries should be cut in the spring, as they are difficult to carry over winter safely in a cellar, and are seldom injured in winter on the tree.

Rose-bug.—J. W. D., Antonia, Mo. Probably the huds were eaten off by the common rose-bug. If this is the case you will find them in the clusters early in the morning. If your seedlings are something you are very desirous of testing, you could cover a few flower clusters on each plant with little socks made of mosquito-netting. Where this pest is very injurious it is one of the worst to combat. Hand-picking is often resorted to and will often much reduce their injurious work. The beetles are very dumpy early in the morning, and can be gathered by hand. Spraying with Bordeaux mixture containing a little Paris green has been reported as successful in keeping them off of grapes. This same beetle attacks roses, spiræas and magnolias.

San Jose Scale—Hardest Peach—Best Plums.—A. G. C., Manchester, Ont., writes: "Is Stark Bros. a reliable firm for nursery stock? Is Missouri free from San Jose Scale?—What is the hardest peach?—What are the largest and most productive plums?"

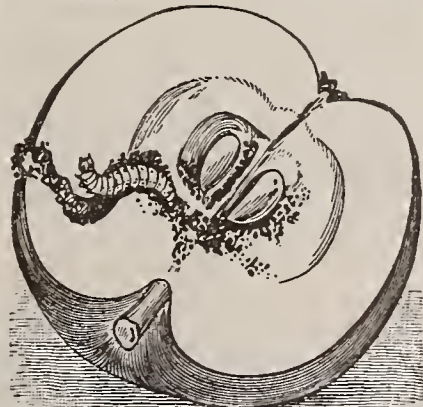
REPLY.—Yes. It is doubtful if there is a state in the Union that has not some cases of San Jose scale, and it is probably in Ontario. I think, however, you would be safe in ordering stock from any reliable nursery, as the nurserymen are now very careful about this matter and most of them now have their nurseries inspected. I think the Crosby is the hardest peach. Among the largest plums for your section are Bradshaw, General Haud and Abundance. Among the most hardy and productive are Lombard, Moor's Arctic and Weaver.

Bordeaux Mixture.—J. H. B., Newberg, Ore. For general use experience seems to show that four pounds of lime, four pounds of bluestone and fifty gallons of water is about right for Bordeaux mixture. In the article by Professor Alwood, in FARM AND FIRESIDE of January 15th, the author means that the trees should be sprayed before the buds start with a solution of two pounds of bluestone in fifty gallons of water. While such a solution is beneficial before the leaves unfold, it would kill every green thing on the tree if used when the tree is in leaf or even when the buds are unfolding. This early spraying is the most important in preventing plum and peach rot, and is probably better than any number of later sprayings, for it destroys all the germs of the disease on the tree before they have had a chance to start.

Various Berries.—P. E., Memphis, Ind. The Japan wineberry is quite acid, each berry is inclosed in a husk, and I think it of very little value for marketing, but may be used in a small way at home for jellies, etc. I think the Loganberry well worthy of trial in sections where the winters are not severe. It is reported as doing well in Rhode Island, but in the more northern states it is of very doubtful value. I like its appearance in vine and fruit very much. I hardly think Eleagnus longipes will ever become popular for marketing, but is destined to be used in a small way at home. The so-called strawberry-raspberry is really a blackberry (Rubus sorbifolia). It is about as much of a need as the Canadian thistle when once in the land, and spreads everywhere. It is worthless with me, and I think it a humbug.

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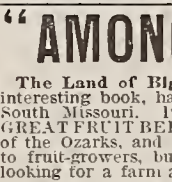
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RESULTS OF CROSSING.

ANY farmer who will use scrub hens and begin with them as a foundation for improvement will lose a year or two by so doing, as he can get fowls or eggs of pure breeds at such small cost that it will be really extravagant to retain the scrubs. More effort has been made in improving scrub fowls than with large stock, but nothing of importance has been gained thereby. On the contrary, the use of scrubs as a foundation has retarded progress. The farmers must first get rid of the supposition that crossing breeds is an advantage. If they should judiciously cross, knowing what they are doing, they might probably accomplish something, but as it is they do more harm by crossing than is expected. For instance, let the farms have two breeds—Plymouth Rocks and Hamburgs. The first he finds an excellent market-fowl, well up to the average as layers, hardy and adapted to nearly all climates. The Hamburgs will lay more eggs than the Plymouth Rocks (mostly in summer), but are small and not hardy in winter. Now, if we can combine the productive capacity of the Hamburgs with the hardiness of the Plymouth Rocks, the farmer considers that he will have a superb cross. He does not stop to consider that the breeders have crossed in every possible manner to get the same results, and that the pure breeds are themselves crosses that have been fixed in characteristics; nor does the farmer consider that fifty farmers in every one hundred have done just what he is about to do. So he makes his cross, and gets birds that do not lay as well as the Hamburgs, are not equal to the Plymouth Rocks in any respect, will not endure severe winters, and which are of all colors and sizes. Then he ceases, as he makes no careful note of the cross, neglects the birds because they have become scrubs, his interest in pure breeds has passed, and he is on the down grade to ruin, so far as keeping poultry for the best results is concerned.

SITTERS AND NON-SITTERS.

When the fowls are not laying they may not pay for their shelter and food. There are, however, sources of profit other than from eggs. The hen is worth a certain sum in market after she ceases to lay, and every hen that becomes broody offers an opportunity to her owner to add to the receipts. When a hen goes on the nest and brings off a brood of chicks she may be of more profit in three months than if she produced eggs every week in the year. All depends upon the care and attention given her and the brood by the owner. To illustrate the case, let it be supposed that a farmer experiments with two hens—one a sitter and the other a non-sitter—the one laying but five dozens of eggs in the year (a low estimate) and the other twelve dozens (above the average). The sitting hen, however, producing a brood of chicks as a portion of her quota. Allow twenty cents a dozen for the eggs and a dollar as the cost a year for food for each hen, and the owner receives a dollar and fifty cents as the profit from the non-sitter, while the sitting hen exactly pays her expenses. So far the comparison is favorable to the non-sitter. But now estimate on the brood; if a hen hatches ten chicks, and raises eight of them to the age of two or four months, she offers her owner a new source of profit, as the chicks will bring from fifteen to twenty cents a pound, and will weigh five pounds a pair. Four pairs of chicks, at five pounds a pair, make twenty pounds. If they sell at only fifteen cents a pound, the gross sum is three dollars, and if it is during the summer season the cost of the chicks will not exceed one dollar, which leaves two dollars profit for the hen, and that, too, after making full allowance for all expenses. It may be urged that to estimate eight chicks a hen is too large. True, and twelve dozens of eggs make a large estimate for non-sitters, while five dozens may be too low for a sitter, as experience demonstrates that the sitting hen will lay fully as many eggs during the entire year as the non-sitter. What is intended is to show that it will pay to use the hens for hatching chicks as well as for eggs only, and that the poultry business should be conducted every month in the year, instead of during only a short period.

LET THE HENS SIT.

When a hen goes on the nest to hatch a brood it is not to her a hardship, as some suppose, but a rest and an advantage. A prominent breeder stated that two of his pullets became so fat that they "broke down behind," assuming a duck-shape when standing, and would sit on the ground when eating. Finally they became broody, and to his surprise, after bringing off their broods, that "break-down" appearance was entirely gone. His experience simply confirms what has been repeatedly affirmed; that a hen can become too fat to be profitable, and that the best remedy for such hens is to allow them to incubate, giving only one meal every two days. As the hen when on the nest does not exert herself, there is but little loss of vitality, and she will have sufficient fat stored on her frame to support her for more than a week on one meal. The best method with fat hens is to sell them, as they will then bring good prices; but if it is preferred to retain them, let them hatch and raise chicks.

PURE BREEDS AND CROSSES.

If a farmer has a flock of Light Brahmas and one of Leghorns, he is sure to decide on crossing the two breeds, and for that reason the better plan is to keep only a single breed. But suppose that it will be beneficial to cross two breeds, there is some system to follow. To cross the active Leghorn, having a tall comb, with such a fowl as the Brahma, which is entirely opposite to the Leghorns in every respect, is a mistake, as it is impossible to do so without losing more than can be gained from the experiment. There is no plan by which one can gain more than he will lose in making crosses, for although it may appear an advantage from some one point of view, there may be a dozen drawbacks from other directions. A cross of Plymouth Rocks and Brahmas would not be so far apart as one of Brahma and Leghorn, yet there has never been a cross made in which anything was gained in practice, though there are many theories in favor of crosses which are never fulfilled.

UTILIZING ORCHARDS.

The orchard is never injured by fowls, but on the contrary excellent work is done by poultry in destroying insects. Every one who has an orchard and does not keep a flock is losing a profit that is more easily secured than in any other manner with poultry, as there is no additional interest on land to add to the cost. The free range of the orchard, with the trees for shade, will assist in greater egg-production, and when the hens have broods of chicks there is no better location than to make each hen comfortable in a little run under a tree, where the chicks can be permitted to have their freedom. It is not well to have the grass too high in an orchard, if fowls are to use the ground. A well-kept orchard is the one to use, and a combination of poultry and fruit gives the farmer a profit from the fowls while waiting for his young trees to come into bearing.

VERTIGO AND GEESE AND DUCKS.

The most frequent difficulty with ducks and geese is that of vertigo. They drop down on their feet, or fall over to one side suddenly, at times as rapidly recovering or dying immediately. This happens only when ducks or geese are fed on too much grain. The best system to adopt is to put them in a field where short grass is abundant, or even young weeds, and let them get the food for themselves. They require but very little food after warm weather comes, as they are then well over the laying period, becoming non-producers. If this fact is kept in view—that of the non-producers requiring but little food during the warm weather—there would be a saving in expenses as well as fewer losses occurring from disease, but it is difficult to convince those having good breeds that there is such a thing as killing with kindness—feeding too much.

EARLY GREEN FOOD.

It may have been noticed that early in spring, when the rye-field or a patch of green grass is given up to the fowls, they have bowel disease. This is due to the laxative properties of the green food when it is first shooting up, and as it is watery it contains but little nourishment. As the grass grows this effect on the fowls dimin-

ishes. It is then that the grain food should be carefully prepared. A mess of scalded bran and corn-meal, with a pound of linseed-meal added to four pounds of bran and four pounds of corn-meal, containing a tablespoonful of salt for the entire mess, given at night, will be found excellent, the salt being beneficial, but should be allowed very moderately. During the day no other meal will be necessary, as it is better for the fowls to forage. They soon become accustomed to the change from dry to green material, and then require no food whatever. During the approach of warm weather it will be better to lessen the ration of corn and wheat and substitute lean meat or hay-seed. When the hens do not lay, examine for the large lice or for mites. The early green food will not prove injurious if they are not confined exclusively to such diet, and more eggs will be secured after they pass over the early spring.

LARGE LICE ON CHICKS.

Young chicks come into the world free from vermin, but in a few days they begin to droop and die. This is because lice leave the hen and go to the chicks. The large gray lice on the heads do the most damage, but the mites also torment both hen and chicks. The time to prevent lice on the young chicks is before they are hatched. To do this clean the nest a few days before the eggs are due to hatch, burn the nest material, and dust the nest well with insect-powder. Rub melted lard well on the skin of the head and neck of the hen, but do not use too much or in a manner to grease the eggs, or they may not hatch. When the chicks appear, rub one drop of lard on their heads and dust them also with insect-powder, repeating the same for the hen.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A GAPE REMEDY.—Last summer, as I was feeding the little chickens their dinner, I noticed one of them gaping very badly. I called my husband's attention to it, and he said, "Give it a dose of lamp-oil." We caught it and gave it about one half of a teaspoonful of the oil, and by the next day it was completely cured. Mrs. J. W. D. New Lebanon, Pa.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Enlargement of Liver.—H. W. M., Munderp, Pa., writes: "Our fowls fall dead off the roost. Examination shows the livers to be very large."

REPLY:—It is caused by excessive feeding on grain, and probably by frequent feeding, also.

Fowls Running Together.—J. E. H., Ames, Ill., writes: "I have some Hamburgs now running with common fowls. Will the eggs of the pure breeds hatch chicks true to breed?"

REPLY:—If only Hamburg males are used the chicks from eggs laid by the Hamburg hens will be pure.

Rattling in the Throat.—B. J. D., Claremont, Col., writes: "I have a few fowls that have rattling in the throat. What is the cause?"

REPLY:—Probably due to drafts of air on them at night from some source. Fowls are also, no doubt, very fat, which renders them more susceptible to colds as well as increasing the difficulty of breathing. Prevent the drafts and give a pinch of chlorate of potash in a teaspoonful of water at night.

Best Breed.—R. H. B., Greenton, Mo., writes: "Which is the best breed on a farm for hardiness and laying? Would pure breeds be better than crosses?"

REPLY:—The Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Langshans, Brahmas or Cochius should answer. The best breed depends on many conditions, and each has its favorites. It would be very difficult to select the best. Pure breeds are superior to crosses.

Wheezing.—Mrs. W. J., Spencer, Ohio, writes: "I have a rooster sent to me from Vermont. He has wheezing. Soon after I caught him and gave him prepared chalk, red pepper, carboic acid and lard. I kept him in a dry, warm coop, but he cannot crow nor does he get any better. I have had him two months. What would you advise?"

REPLY:—See reply to B. J. D. Where cure is so difficult it would be an advantage to destroy the bird.

Geese.—E. G. H., Covert, Mich., writes: "I have two geese and one gander. What is the best method of feeding? What kind of food is suitable? When and how many eggs do they lay? Is it better to set the eggs under hens or let the geese hatch them?"

REPLY:—Turn them on a pasture and feed very little, at night giving ground meat and cooked potatoes. They begin to lay in March or April, and lay from twenty to forty eggs each. It is better to allow the geese to hatch the eggs, though hens may be used, if desired.

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Queries.

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Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two WEEKS before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Asparagus Culture.—J. M. C., Topeka, Kan., and others. Request Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., to send you Farmers' Bulletin on Asparagus Culture.

To Drive Away Bugs From Squashes and Cucumbers.—J. W. D., New Lebanon, Pa., writes: "Saturate a piece of heavy wrapping-paper with crude petroleum, and lay it on the ground under the plants, and the bugs will leave instantly."

Ownership of Road Timber.—C. O. writes: "Who is the owner of the timber standing on the county road, the person who owns the land through which the road runs, or has everybody else the right to cut the timber thereon?"

ANSWER:—The owner of the land through which the public road runs owns the timber thereon.

Tobacco Fertilizer.—F. R., Lawrenceville, Pa., writes: "What proportions of potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen are used in a special fertilizer for tobacco?"

ANSWER:—One of the standard brands of tobacco fertilizer on the market is made up as follows: Potash, 10.5 per cent; available phosphoric acid, 4 per cent, and nitrogen, 6 per cent.

Growing Onions.—L. J. McC., Cloverdale, Ind. We usually get a piece of sod in hest shape for growing onions by planting carrots or some other garden crop first. Cucumbers or other vines would also be a good crop to get the land in good order for onions. If you wish to grow onions by the old method, sow seed with a garden-seed drill. Cultivate with an Iron Age or Planet Jr. hand wheel-hoe. If you intend to grow onions on an extensive scale, don't fail to read the modern onion-books.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two WEEKS before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Frequent Attacks of Colic.—C. G., Strickleville, Mo. I can only give you the same advice given in the answers to similar questions in recent numbers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and also in the present one to W. P. M., Auburn, Texas.

Warts.—N. W. H., Tenaha, Texas. I am not inclined to think that what you call warts is something far more serious than common warts, and if your horse is a gray and the warts (?) are black, the same are black sarcomatous tumors (melanosarcomata), which becomes very ugly and even malignant as soon as irritated by being interfered with.

Corns.—T. F. C., Jamestown, Kansas. Let your horseshoer cut out the corns without drawing blood, fill up the holes with absorbent cotton saturated with tincture of aloes, and then put on a shoe that fits to the hoof, but does not come in contact (has no bearing upon) that part of the median quarter where the corn was. Have the shoes reset at least once a month.

Probably Tuberculosis.—H. L. G., Oketo, Kan. It is highly probable that your cow is suffering from tuberculosis, and I cannot advise to make any use of the milk until it has been ascertained, either by the tuberculin test or otherwise, that your cow is not tuberculous. I advise you to communicate the facts to your State Veterinarian, Dr. Paul Fischer, Manhattan, Kansas.

Hemoglobinemia.—A. W., Cable, Ill. The symptoms of your mare, as you describe them, are hardly those of hemoglobinemia, or azoturia, as the disease is called by Canadian veterinarians, although some of them bear some resemblance to those observed at the first stage of the disease. Therefore, as I am not prepared to accept your diagnosis, I cannot advise you, except to have the animal examined by a competent veterinarian.

A Barren Heifer.—D. B. M., Nezperce, Idaho. Barrenness may be due to various causes, and a remedy can be applied only if the cause in the case in question is known and can be removed, for the treatment necessarily must consist in removing the cause. As it is often difficult to ascertain the cause, and as the latter, even if known, can but seldom be removed, it is in most cases advisable to prepare a heifer like yours for the shambles.

Periodical Attacks of Colic.—W. P. M., Auburn, Tex. All that can be learned from your inquiry is that your horse suffers from periodical attacks of colic. All you can do is to feed very regularly and nothing but perfectly sound food easy of digestion, to give after each meal sufficient time for digestion before the horse is hitched up for work, to wait awhile when the horse comes home from work before you feed any heavy food, and give no stagnant and surface water to drink.

Otitis.—D. B. S., Cassopolis, Mich. What you describe appears to be a case of otitis, or chronic affection of the interior of the external ear. If the suppuration or discharges are not too profuse, the following treatment will effect a cure. First tie a small piece of a "surgeon's sponge" to a stick, saturate the sponge with warm water, and thoroughly, by inserting it in the ear and turning it in every direction, clean the whole interior of the external ear. This done, syringe or rinse the ear out with aqua plumbi (a mixture of acetum plumbi and water—to be obtained in any drug-store); but if any of it remains in any of the

"pockets" of the ear, wipe it out with the sponge. If any raw or sore spots are discovered, it will be best to touch them with a stick of nitrate of silver. This treatment must be repeated once a day until all irritation has disappeared. If the dog, in spite of the treatment, should persistently scratch his ear, a cap of muslin with a pocket for each ear should be made and be tied on in such a way that the pockets with the ears in them are on top of the head.

Contracted Flexor Tendons.—L. M. B., Bonilla, S. D. You can relieve the horse somewhat by having a shoe with high corks put on the lame foot. If every trace of inflammation in the contracted tendon has disappeared, but not before, it is possible to straighten the leg by a surgical operation to be performed by a competent veterinarian; but after it has been performed, the horse must have strict rest for two months, and it will then take another two months until the same can be put to work again. There is no other treatment.

Lame—Ringbone.—H. K., Petersburg, Neb. Although I do not in the least doubt your statement that your horse has ringbone, your remark that the same is not lame ("its all right") on plowed ground, but goes very lame on hard ground, makes it appear probable that the lameness is caused much more by soreness inside of the hoof than by the ringbone. I therefore advise you to have the sole of the lame foot examined either by a veterinarian or by an intelligent horseshoer.—In regard to ringbone I refer you to FARM AND FIRESIDE of November 15th.

Chronic Constipation.—H. D. W., Grand Rapids, Mich. Your cattle, it seems, suffer from chronic constipation. There is surely something wrong concerning the quality of the food you give them. Give each animal a physic and change of food to something that is perfectly sound and free from all kinds of mold and fungus spores. As it probably will be an early spring, drive them out to pasture as soon as there is sufficient grass to support them, and until then feed good, clean and bright hay and considerable quantities of bran (not shorts, but bran).

A "Wheezing" Dog.—A. G. H., Dallas, Tex. From your description it must be concluded that your dog is old and very fat, and that in consequence the same is asthmatic and wheezing. If so, there is no remedy, unless by strict diet (not very nutritious food and but little of it) and abundant exercise you can manage to reduce his obesity considerably. An audible sound at each respiration can also be produced by an obstacle, a morbid growth, for instance, anywhere in the respiratory passage. If such a growth exists, which can be located and is accessible, it may be removed by a surgical operation.

Luxuriant Granulation.—D. E. H., Bloomington, Idaho. Torn and lacerated wounds on the lower extremities of horses can be successfully brought to healing only if from the very first a strict asepsis is maintained and if all external injurious influences are excluded by artificial protection in the shape of suitable dressing and bandages. If this is not done, luxuriant granulation, or so-called proud-flesh, is sure to make its appearance. Where it has been produced it must be destroyed before any healing can take place. This, in many cases, at least, is best done by an application of some caustic, for instance, by some finely powdered sulphate of copper. Whether one application will be sufficient or not depends upon the condition of the case. As soon, however, as the luxuriant granulation has been destroyed, the wound must not any more suffer from further neglect, but must be dressed twice a day with a suitable antiseptic—in your case good results will probably be obtained if a mixture of iodoform and tannic acid, equal parts by weight, and absorbent cotton are used—and the dressing must be kept in place and protection be given by a suitable and well-applied bandage. Still, although a healing may yet be effected, it is too late to prevent the formation of an ugly and permanent horny scar.

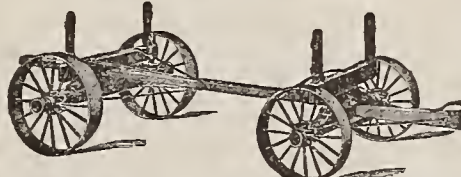
Diarrhea in Young Calves.—G. A. H., Waterbury, Neb. If, as you say, you and your neighbors lose many of your young calves dying of diarrhea, there is something radically wrong with their diet or with the hygienic surroundings. Young calves should be kept in a spacious, well-ventilated, clean, light and dry place and be fed with milk that is perfectly fresh and untainted with anything. If the milk is diluted with water, and pure and unobjectionable water is not available, the water should first be boiled. That the vessels out of which the calves are fed must be kept clean and sweet may not need any mentioning. It is also possible that unsuitable or too heavy food fed to the cows that produce the milk is at fault. As to a treatment of sick calves, allow me to say that as a rule any treatment will be in vain if the calves are attacked when only two or three days old. It is different if they take sick when six or seven days old or older. In that case the following constitutes an almost infallible remedy, provided, of course, the causes are removed. Take powdered opium, five grains, powdered Russian rhubarb, one dram, carbonate of magnesium, one scruple, and camomile-tea (offlores chamomillea vulgaris), four ounces. Give to the sick calf two such doses, one in the morning and the other in the evening, or vice versa.

Consequences of Dehorning.—B. F. S., Denmark, Ark. In cattle the frontal sinus extends into the processes for the horns, consequently if a horn is sawed off, or cut off, the frontal sinus will be opened and the mucous membrane which lines the interior will be exposed and become more or less inflamed, the blood drawn at the operation often flows into the sinus, where it will decompose, and suppuration and even ulceration will be the consequence. All this will, as it did in your case, interfere with the process of healing, and the wounds will not close. These consequences, of course, can be prevented if the operation is properly performed, if no blood is allowed to flow into the frontal sinus, and if the wounds are at once closed by a suitable aseptic or antiseptic dressing. In a case like yours a healing will not take place unless the frontal sinuses are first cleaned and washed out by means of copious injections with clean warm water, then disinfected with a mild antiseptic, for instance, by means of injections with a two-per-cent solution of creolin; and this done, the wounds closed with a suitable antiseptic dressing (absorbent cotton saturated with a five-per-cent solution of creolin will answer), to be kept in place by a bandage. The dressing has to be renewed and the same treatment has to be applied until no more pus is produced and until the wounds show a plain tendency to heal, when the dressing, carefully applied, may be kept on until a healing has been effected.

A Sick Cow—A Lame Mare.—E. J. N., Panaca, Nev. The disease of your cow is either what is described in the veterinary literature as malignant catarrhal-fever or malignant head disease of cattle, or the symptoms and morbid changes described are simply the product of an extraordinary exposure to a very severe and very cold wind, a regular blizzard. Although the first-named disease is described as being infectious and (probably) caused by a pathogenic bacterium, inoculation exper-

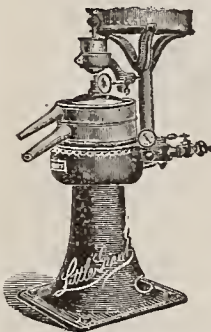
iments so far have not been successful, or at least have not conclusively confirmed that bacteria constitute the primary cause. My own experience and observations very strongly point to an exposure to high winds of a very low temperature as the probable cause. Of course, there can be no doubts that various kinds of decomposition-producing bacteria will get in their destructive work after the mucous membranes lining the sinuses and the respiratory passages of the head have become sufficiently chilled (frozen) to seriously impair their vitality. Therefore it cannot be denied that in the beginning of the disease an injection of a mild antiseptic, for instance, an injection of a two-per-cent solution of creolin in water into the nasal cavities will be of some benefit, in so far as it will arrest further destruction by the action of the invading bacteria. Still, for reasons which to explain would lead too far, the disease as a rule will in a majority of cases terminate in death unless the attack is only a mild one, no matter what the treatment may be. In your case it will be too late for any treatment to be of much effect, and if the animal can be kept alive it must be done by proper diet and careful nursing.—As to your lame mare, although nothing definite concerning the cause and seat of the lameness can be made out of your description, the use the mare is put to, rounding up and running after cattle, make it highly probable that the seat of the lameness is in the flexor tendons and the suspensory ligaments of the left foot, and that the cause consists in an overtaxing (straining) of these parts. This becomes the more probable if the mare in galloping throws the whole weight of her body and her rider on the left fore-foot, and if she has long, slanting pasterns, long toes and low quarters. The remedy, if not yet too late, consists in strict rest, in shortening the toes and in raising the quarters of the hoof, and in not letting her run after cattle and gallop under the saddle after the lameness has disappeared. If the flexor tendons or the suspensory ligament show swelling or signs of contraction, a few applications, four days apart, of a good counter-irritant (oil of camphor, the preparation of which has often been given) may be indicated.

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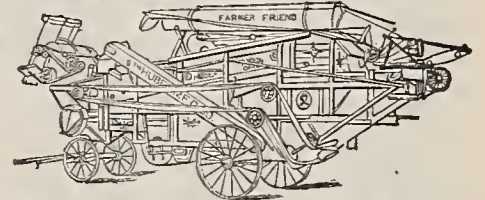


WE no longer supply our seeds to dealers to sell again. At the same time, anyone who has bought our seeds of their local dealer during either 1896 or 1897 will be sent our Manual of "Everything for the Garden" for 1898 FREE provided they apply by letter FREE and give the name of the local merchant from whom they bought. To all others, this magnificent Manual, every copy of which costs us 30 cents to place in your hands, will be sent free on receipt of 10 cents (stamps) to cover postage. Nothing like this Manual has ever been seen here or abroad; it is a book of 200 pages, contains 590 engravings of seeds and plants, mostly new, and these are supplemented by 6 full size colored plates of the best novelties of the season, finally, OUR "SOUVENIR" SEED COLLECTION will also be sent without charge to all applicants sending 10 cts. for the Manual who will state where they saw this advertisement. Postal Card Applications Will Receive No Attention.

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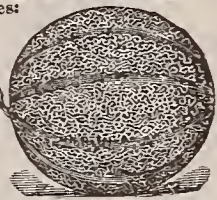
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which is the most economical, accurate, durable and rapid hand seed sower made. Acknowledged standard of the world for past 30 years. "Get the Best." If your dealer will not supply you write to us. Circulars Free.

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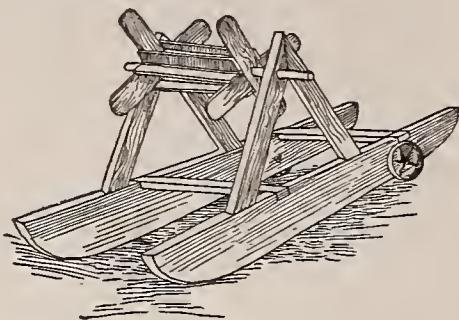
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Last fall I made the device for winding up fence wire, shown in the accompanying illustration. It is a troublesome job to move a wire fence, but with this tool one man can wind up barb wire smoothly and quickly, and without tearing his clothes or hands. The wheels for the front end are some old pulleys picked up at an



implement warehouse. None are placed on the rear end, so that the sled will drag a little harder to increase the tension. Fasten the end of the wire to an empty spool, and place the spool on a crowbar, run through holes in the standards. Stand behind, between the runners, and turn the spool, which will wind up the wire and draw the sled along.

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A novelty of high merit is the Paul Rose muskmelon, illustrated herewith. This melon is a cross of the Osage with the the Netted Gem, having the sweetness of the former and the fine netting of the latter. Mr. Rose is a scientific melon-grower, and in producing this melon got a basket melon of excellent table quality



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for the shipping trade. Its uniform shape and average diameter—about five inches—permit the placing of two layers, of eight each, in a half-bushel basket, making a handy package of sixteen melons, averaging one and one half pounds each. Last season, in times of glutted market, the Paul Rose sold at fancy prices.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM OREGON.—In your correspondence columns I have failed to notice anything from "the valley beautiful—the Willamette—where rolls the Oregon." There is a joyous rhythm in the hearts of the people of this north-west coast country for the large measure of "advance of prosperity" now obtaining, and the happy assurance of more to follow, for the fabulous Klondike will draw largely on this section for supplies. "How strange it seems to be walking on the green grass enjoying the fragrance of flowers blooming in the open ground on the first day of March," remarked a last summer's arrival from the dear old Buckeye state, when admiring the luxuriant verdure of our lawn. We have had fresh outdoor flowers on our dining-table all the year round. The ground was white with snow only for one day this last winter. There is no failure of crops here. We have the early and late rains as surely as the seasons come and go. Sometimes in spring the rainy season is prolonged beyond our appreciation, but we do not live in mortal dread of that devastating demon, the cyclone, nor its twin horror, the blizzard. Improved farms range from \$15 to \$50 an acre, according to improvement and location. Many large farms are now being subdivided, and to the homeseeker we extend a cordial invitation to come over and help us.

C. A. D.
Turner, Marion county, Ore.

FROM INDIANA.—Northwestern Indiana is a beautiful country. Our principal crops are corn, oats and hay. A great many cows are kept here. Some dairymen sell their milk to the creamery; others ship it to Chicago. The dairy business is profitable, bringing in money and improving the farm at the same time.

Hebron, Ind. J. T. L.

FROM ARKANSAS.—We have a good country for clover and grasses and for stock, as well as for fine fruit, but we have no creameries. We would like some one to come here and build and operate a creamery.

H. D. H.
Bentonville, Ark.

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Our Fireside.

PLAYING ROBBERS.

Patter, patter, little footsteps, coming down the oaken stair;
And the music of their laughter tells me that my lambs are there;
They are planning to surprise me—"Frighten mother," so they say,
And they laugh in childish mischief as they picture my dismay.

Ha! a whisper: "We'll play robbers; won't that be a lot of fun?
You stand there till I say, 'Ready!' then both together make a run;
Run to mother, cry out, 'Robbers!' Say we're robbers, bold and bad.
When she sees we're not real sure ones, goodness me, won't she be glad?"

Then the curly heads are parted; all the little plans are laid;
Each one takes his post of duty, waiting for the coming raid.
Then I hear my eldest whisper, "One, two, three—now ready, all!"
And I hear a great commotion from the "robbers" in the hall.

Lo! the curtains spring asunder, little arms enfold me tight;
My pets kiss me as they whisper, "We gave mother such a fright!"
Then they press me fonder, closer, and they softly stroke my hair,
As they tell me how they planned it, standing out there on the stair.

Is it strange my voice should falter, and my eyes grow dim with tears,
As I listen to the chatter of my bright-eyed little dears?
Is it strange that I should fancy, as I press them to my breast,
That in these, my priceless treasures, I am most divinely blessed?

—Katharine Dangerfield, in Waverly.

JOEL'S WEDDING

BY LOU NEEL JAYNES.

CHAPTER I.



LOUISY," called Mr. Evans, cautiously, as he came through the doorway of the sod sbanty, followed by his three tow-headed boys, all of whom appeared to be greatly excited.

"There's a young feller out here wants us to board him," put in Jimmy, quickly, anxious to be the first to tell the news.

"He's goin' to pay two dollars 'n' a half, cash," said Bobby, the emphasis on the last word plainly indicating its scarcity. Cash was almost an unknown quantity on a western homestead.

"Don't yelp so, boys," Mr. Evans expostulated, mildly.

"Keep still, boys, and let your pa talk," said Louisy, coming to his assistance, as she usually did in everything, whether it pertained to the management of the claim or the equally hard task of managing her wilful little brothers.

"Now what is it all about, pa?" she inquired, the boys having all rushed out again, bent on commencing the entertainment of their prospective boarder at once.

"I was goin' to tell you as soon as them young 'uns give me a chance. I can't get in a word edgewise when they are around," he said, plaintively.

"Well, don't let 'em worry you. I'll see to 'em. How did he happen to want us to board him, and who is he, anyway?"

"He's a young chap just come from 'way back in Massachusetts, fresh an' clean-lookin' as a girl. Simp Green proved up on his quarter right in front of us last week, you know, and this young feller's bought him out, and he wants to board here so as to be handy to his work. I ain't said yes, yit. It would make it too hard on you, I was kinder afraid. You've got your hands full now, with me sick half the time and them young 'uns worrying you beside."

"They're like all bealthy boys, and it don't worry me a particle, pa. We've got the corn laid by now, and your rheumatism is better, so I guess there won't be a great deal more outdoor work, and you know the money would come in mighty handy. I was just wonderin' where he'd sleep, and whether our house was good enough to keep a boarder in."

And she glanced around at the homely walls decorated with wooden pegs, on which hung articles of wearing apparel in various stages of dilapidation.

"I reckon he can see from the outside that it ain't no pallas, and I'm calculatin' to give the walls a coat of whitewash next week, an' he says he's willin' to sleep in the tent till we can git out sod an' build on an ell, and he'll help in the buildin'."

"Well, just as you say, pa; but it seems two and a half is more'n he ought to pay. It ain't worth over two, anyway."

"That's what I told him, but he said that was as little as he'd be willin' to ask a woman to cook for. He seems to be a real square chap. The young 'uns took to him right off, and I sorter like him myself. Still, it's jest as you say, Louisy; I don't want you to break yourself down cookin' for no one."

"Well, I guess if that's all, pa, we'd better take him; but you just keep him out a spell till I get things straightened up a little and get him some more supper. The boys have cleaned out everything."

The supper-table certainly did not look inviting. It was covered with dark oil-cloth, and it, in turn, was covered with potato-skins and dirty dishes. A large gravy-bowl, smeared outside and in, served as a centerpiece, and on one corner stood a stone crock of milk, in which floated the tin cup that had been used as a ladle.

No wonder poor Louisy felt discouraged. For several days Pa Evans had been doing the housework in his bungling way, while Louisy rode up and down between the rows of corn, on the old cultivator, perfectly oblivious of the fact that her face was getting tanned, her hair sun-burned and her hands rough and brown. Louisy had considered her personal appearance of very little importance, if, indeed, she ever had time to think of it at all. Her mother had died when Louisy was thirteen, leaving her the care of her father, who was in rather poor health, and three small boys, and for seven years she had been first housekeeper, then farmer, with very few facilities for either.

When her father said "clean and fresh-lookin' as a girl," it suddenly dawned upon her that it was the way a girl should look. It is very likely that the addition of a young man to the family would have caused an early realization of the fact, even if her father had not made the remark. Up to this time Louisy had seen but few young men. She was energetic, though ignorant of good house-keeping.

In a few moments the dirty dishes were removed, the "company" cloth, a faded red one, spread over the table, and fortunately there was enough hot water to enable her to set it with clean dishes. Then she hurriedly fried some bacon and eggs, made fresh coffee, which for some reason was very black, and arranged the heavy bread on the plate as neatly as possible. A glass dish of wild-plum butter was added as dessert, and Louisy's preparations for the new boarder's supper were completed.

He was ushered in very hospitably by Pa Evans and the boys. The latter would have hung about his chair through the entire meal if Louisy had not made them understand by secret signals that she wanted a private interview outside of the kitchen, and promised them each a slice of "bread 'n' butter 'u' plum-butter" if they would stay out until the young man ate his supper.

Joel Haskins was a fine specimen of a healthy, handsome young farmer, with an honest, manly face that every one instinctively liked. If he had any personal defects they were not discovered by the Evans family, for none of them were at all critical.

Joel had been brought up by a spinster aunt, who had astonished every one by getting married at the mature age of sixty-five. As her husband had plenty of means, she had generously deeded to Joel the stoney farm on which he had made a living for them both for several years. He had been fortunate enough to sell a piece of timber-land at a pretty good price, which enabled him to go West. These few brief facts regarding his personal history were received with kindly interest by the Evans family, and accepted as all the credentials necessary.

Louisy got up very early the next morning, putting in a little more time than usual on her toilet, and tidying up the kitchen a little, for it certainly needed it after Pa Evans' reign. Then taking the heavy wooden bucket, she went to the well for water. Much to her embarrassment she found the boarder there before her. He had just finished washing his face in the horse-trough, and was polishing it vigorously with a red cotton handkerchief.

"You'd ought to have come to the house for a towel," she said, basbfully, as he took the bucket from her and hung it on the hook on the end of the well-sweep.

"No use of all that trouble," he laughed. "My handkerchief was clean."

Louisy blushed as she thought of the grimy wheat-sack hanging on the kitchen door, and was thankful he had used his handkerchief. A clean, new wheat-sack would have to be sacrificed before dinner-time.

He carried the water to the house, and then built a fire for her, just as he would have done for Aunt Maria. He was soon more like a son and brother than a boarder. He helped Pa Evans with his chores, cut wood and carried water for Louisy, and was always ready for a romp with the boys when the day's work was over, doing it all with such a careless good nature that they could not help feeling, as he said, that it was "no trouble at all."

They appreciated him so much that Aunt Maria would have thought he was being completely spoiled. She had admitted to others that he was a "tollable" good boy, but open praise was against her creed, and Joel was highly gratified at their approval.

Louisy was painfully conscious of the many defects in her housekeeping. Joel was not critical, but there was a method and neatness in all that he did that was not lost upon Louisy, striving as she was to please him in every detail. The fact that he ate but little troubled both her father and herself.

"Maybe your cookin' don't suit, Louisy," he remarked. "I've always heard Yankee women were fine cooks."

"There ain't much to cook, pa, but bacon and eggs," said Louisy, dejectedly.

"Why don't you bake some beans, Louisy? That's a reglar Yankee dish, and you can fix 'em real easy."

"Why, of course I can," she said, cheerfully. "It's a good three hours till dinner, and I can boil and bake 'em, too, if I keep a good fire."

At dinner-time Louisy triumphantly set the big bowl of very dry beans on the table, though not without a little flutter of anxiety.

Pa Evans, proud of his suggestion, passed the dish and waited no less anxiously than Louisy for some expression of approval, and was very much disappointed when Joel took only a small quantity and continued to talk of the best way to plant sod-corn.

"What do you think of 'em?" asked the old man at last.

"Which?" asked Joel, looking at the three boys who sat on a long bench at the other side of the table.

"Why, them baked beans, of course. I told Louisy to fix 'em for you."

"Wby, they're—they're first rate," said Joel, with a little hesitation, for Aunt Maria had brought him up with a stern regard for the truth.

Pa Evans was satisfied, but sensitive Louisy was not; and so it happened that when Joel was starting to work a little earlier than usual he came suddenly around the end of the house and found her sitting on the bench by the rain-water barrel looking hopelessly discouraged and with something very much like tears in her earnest blue eyes.

"What are you so blue about, Louisy?" he asked, sympathetically, as he sat down beside her.

"I—I was a little worried over the cookin'," faltered Louisy, with scarlet cheeks. "I am afraid we oughtn't have took you to board. I'm such a miserable cook."

"Is that all?" said Joel. "Well, now don't you worry another mite. Your cookin' suits me well enough. I get all I want to eat, and what more does a fellow want?"

"I reckon you'd eat more if it was fit to eat. I get tired of sody biscuits and bacon myself, and I'm used to 'em."

"Well, I'll get used to 'em. You can't cook away out here in Kansas like the women back East, where they've got plenty to cook."

"How do they hake beans, anyhow?" asked Louisy, anxiously.

"How'd you bake 'em?" he asked, in true Yankee fashion.

"Why, I put 'em on in a pot of water and boiled 'em till they were soft, and then put 'em in a bread-pan and baked 'em good and dry. Ain't that the way?"

"Well, not exactly. I'll tell you how I done when I kept back. First, you soak 'em over night, and in the morning you parboil 'em till they're kinder crinkly, and then pour off the water and put 'em in your bean-pot—"

"What's a bean-pot?" asked Louisy.

"Why—why, a little stone jar, like—" Joel was puzzled to know just how to describe this article, as familiar to him as the kitchen stove. "Well, you ain't got one, anyway, so we might as well go in and see what we can find that will do just as well."

Joel got up and Louisy followed, her mind busy with the directions just given.

"There's a big spider," he said, after a brief survey of the cooking-utensils behind the stove.

"Where?" inquired Louisy, looking startled.

"Why, that deep one hangin' on the wooden peg."

"Oh, you mean that skillet," said Louisy, looking relieved. "I thought you saw one of them old tarantulas."

"Now," resumed Joel, "you put 'em in the spi-skillet, put some salt and pepper and molasses and a piece of fat salt pork on top, and cover 'em with water and bake 'em all day."

It might not have been just Aunt Maria's way, but Louisy followed the directions faithfully, and even if her back did ache from bending down so much to see if they needed more water, they were a success.

Once more the big bowl was given the place of honor on the table, but this time its contents were brown, fragrant and glutinous.

Seeing Louisy's ambition to become a good cook, Joel wrote to his Aunt Maria for some of her best recipes, and that good lady spent several afternoons selecting and copying them, and added many helpful hints on housekeeping in general. She considered Louisy's ignorance to be heathenish, and did it with a true missionary spirit.

Certainly no heathen ever tried harder to follow a missionary's teachings. Louisy found she could do a great deal with plenty of butter, milk and eggs. She was much gratified to see Joel's appetite improve, and Pa Evans ceased to complain of heartburn soon after "sody" biscuits were banished from the table.

One rainy day in the early fall Joel remarked that it reminded him of the rainy days at home, when Aunt Maria always had him sew carpet-rags.

Louisy grasped the idea at once, and that very afternoon they had what Joel called a "carpet bee," when every member of the family, from Pa Evans down, gaily assisted in tearing old coats and vests into strips and winding them on balls ready to be sewed during the long winter evenings. So enthusiastically did they work, that in less than six weeks the carpet came home from the weavers and was put down over the bare rough boards of the "middle room." Nor did the good work stop until the bedroom floors were covered

as well. It was the happiest, busiest winter they had ever spent in the old log-house.

But in the spring a great calamity came upon them. Joel was going to leave them. Some one had bought the rest of the Massachusetts farm, and Joel was going to build a house of his own.

"Going to back it?" Pa Evans tried to ask jovially, though his heart ached as much as it would had one of his own children announced their intention of leaving the home nest. He had a faint hope that Louisy—but even that was dashed to the ground when Joel answered, blushing like a girl:

"No, I've been waitin'—that is, there's a little girl back in Massachusetts coming to keep house for me."

"Oh, that's it," said Pa Evans, trying to laugh a little to hide his disappointment. "I never knowed as you had a girl back there."

"I never was certain of it myself," said Joel. "She didn't promise sure when I left, but I told her I'd send for her when I got a home ready, and now she says she'll come."

For some reason he looked at Louisy when he spoke, but she was taking a pan of bread out of the oven, so he could not see her face. Neither did he notice that she carried the hot pan in her bare hands across the kitchen without realizing the pain. Poor Louisy was thankful for those burnt hands. She could give them as an excuse for the tears that fell on Joel's brown hair as he tenderly bound them up in sweet-oil "just as he would have done for Aunt Maria," Louisy thought.

He had done everything for her that way, of course, but she had thought it might mean something different. How she almost hated "that little girl back in Massachusetts" at first.

CHAPTER II.

Joel evidently expected the usual hearty sympathy in this as in all other affairs, and seemed to rely on Louisy as chief adviser in all his plans for the new house. He insisted on her helping to choose the building site, and it was she that decided whether it should have an ell-kitchen or all be under one roof, the number of windows in the sitting-room and the place for the kitchen sink.

And Louisy, with real stoicism, talked it over cheerfully and tried honestly to decide as she thought the little bride might like it. Joel never guessed how her heart ached, and how hard she tried not to watch for his coming at meal-time any more, nor to feel glad when she heard his step at the door.

Privately, Louisy thought the Massachusetts girl was rather hard to please. Joel was so anxious about everything, and even after the house was nearly completed she wrote that he must add a spare bedroom and have folding-doors between it and the sitting-room.

Joel bought all the furniture, even to the linen, and was so anxious lest she should think the table-cloths too coarse, the stove too small or the neat ingrain carpet too cheap.

Louisy thought of her own table-cloths made of flour-sacks pieced together, her little cracked stove and broken dishes, and wondered if any woman could be wicked enough to be dissatisfied with such lovely things.

It was not until late in September that Joel finally decided that everything was ready for his bride. Louisy was glad the ordeal was nearly over, for Joel's sake as well as her own.

He had seemed so worried and anxious all summer, quite unlike the careless, cheerful Joel of the previous year. Certainly, his fears must be groundless, for no other woman in all that part of Kansas would have such a cozy home. Joel had even added a small cabinet organ.

This was the crowning touch in Louisy's eyes. At Joel's request they spent their evenings at the new house after it was finished, and Louisy was almost happy when she was able to pick out "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" well enough for Joel, the boys and herself to sing, while her father joined in occasionally with a wavering bass, blissfully unconscious of the key-note.

But Joel was doubtful of even this piece of furniture. She had always said she wanted a piano. He had his doubts, too, about his personal appearance, though Louisy was sure there was never a handsomer bridegroom than Joel in his new dark suit, when he came to ask her opinion before starting to the nearest railway station where he was to meet his bride.

It seemed as if there had been a funeral in the old sod-house that morning. Joel had gone out of the family never to return. It would all be so different when Joel's wife came.

Pa Evans had guessed how it was with Louisy, and his loving old heart ached for his lonely daughter, and lonely Louisy always would be, now that the only real happiness she had ever known had gone out of her life.

She went silently about her work, her father trying to help a little in his awkward way. When it was done, he watched her furtively as she tied on her sunbonnet preparatory to going up to Joel's house, where she was to prepare the wedding supper.

"You'd better lay down and rest, pa," she said, as she put on his battered straw hat. "You ain't lookin' a bit well."

"I feel all right, Louisy, only kinder lonesome, but I'll stay at home if you don't want me."

Louisy felt ashamed of her childish wish to go alone and cry it out.

"Of course I want you, pa," she said, laying her hand on his faded coat-sleeve. "I'm always going to want you."

There were tears in his faded eyes as he gently patted her hand, and Louisy was thankful that her face was hidden by her sunbonnet. Up at the new house it was more cheerful. The boys, at least, were quite happy as they watched the preparations for the wonderful feast and ate the many samples Louisy gave them.

It was twenty miles to the railway station, so the bridal pair would not be home before dark at least. Louisy had done some cooking the day before, so long before they were expected everything was ready, even to the table with its snowy cloth, set with the new gold-handled dishes. A year before Louisy would have found the preparations for such a wedding supper impossible, but Annt Maria's recipes had been carefully followed, and for the first time Louisy realized what she really could do with plenty of material and cooking-utensils, and even Aunt Maria could have found little to criticize in her efforts.

Pa Evans and the boys went home to do the chores and "dress up," and then came back to "stay with the house" while Louisy got ready.

In return for her kindness in advising about the house and preparing the wedding supper Joel had bought her a new dress for the occasion.

Louisy could not see how it looked in the little cracked mirror at home, but there was a large one on the dresser up at the new house, and Louisy, surrounded by her admiring relatives, had to own that, contrary to all her previous convictions, there was nothing awkward or homely about the well-rounded figure in the close-fitting, dark blue dress, with its soft lace ruffles at the throat and wrists. It showed her complexion in all its clear freshness, for Louisy had been very careful about wearing a bonnet after Joel came, and her hair, no longer sun-burned, waved prettily about her smooth forehead.

For the first time in her life Louisy felt a little thrill of girlish vanity. After all, she need not feel ashamed at her own appearance when introduced to the bride.

"She'll be a shiner if she looks any better'n you do, Louisy," said Pa Evans, proudly.

Louisy and her father went into the little parlor and sat silently waiting, very much as people wait for the minister at a funeral.

Once Pa Evans reached out his poor old trembling hand and laid it gently on her knee. Louisy patted it softly and wiped away a tear that had fallen on it with her handkerchief. They were not given to demonstrative affection, but they understood each other perfectly.

The boys had been out in the road watching for nearly an hour, when at last they shouted that "there was a team a-comin' over the ridge" with all the enthusiasm of three hungry boys that had long anticipated their part in a wedding feast.

"I'll go meet 'em, Louisy," said her father, with a look of sympathy on his kind old face.

Louisy hurried into the kitchen and busied herself with the final preparations for supper, trying hard not to think of Joel nor feel envious of the little bride.

Presently the kitchen door opened and Joel came in looking a little anxious, but Louisy could not help thinking handsomer than ever.

He did not speak, but stood looking at her so earnestly that Louisy felt a trifle awkward.

"Do you want me to go in and see her?" she tried to ask in her natural voice, though the words nearly choked her.

"No," he answered, decidedly, "I don't."

"Why not?" she asked, in surprise.

"Because she didn't come."

"Didn't come!" Louisy's love was strong enough for her to feel genuine regret at his disappointment. "I'm sorry for you, Joel," she said. "When do you look for her?"

"She isn't coming at all, and I'm glad of it."

"Why, Joel," she remonstrated weakly. "It's too bad; the preacher will be here in a minute. Hadn't pa better put one of the boys on a horse and have him go tell him not to come?"

"No," said Joel, as he came and stood beside her and gently slipped his arm around her waist. "I'm going to get married just the same, if you will stand up with me."

"Oh, I couldn't, Joel, and you liking her all the time," she said, trying to draw away from him, but not wholly unconscious of that blissful thrill a girl always feels at the first caress of her lover.

"But I don't, Louisy," said Joel, earnestly. "I've been finding it out all summer, but I couldn't play off on her when I thought she'd been waiting for me. But she wasn't waiting for me. I guess she was just waiting for the other fellow to ask her, and was going to take me if he didn't. I always thought she liked him, and now they're going to get married. She was a pretty little thing, but mighty different from you, Louisy. I couldn't help thinking so when I saw how good you was to your pa and the boys. Then everything suits you, and I knew the house wouldn't suit her, nor nothing in it. Her folks are pretty well off, and she's been spoiled. We'd never have been happy together like you and I will be, dear," drawing her nearer. "When I saw you in here looking so sweet and pretty in your blue dress, and thought how happy you would be in a nice home of your own, and how bappy I'd be to share mine with you, and I just couldn't feel thankful enough that she didn't come. I hear the preacher out there now. Nobody but your folks know who was to be the bride, and I love you, Louisy. Won't you come?"

A few moments later they stood hand in hand under the hanging-lamp, blissfully listening to the words Louisy had thought it would break her heart to hear.

THE GREEN CRICKET.

BY CORA STUART WHEELER.



It seemed quite impossible that any one should be so unwitting of traditional New England as to be ignorant of the important position held in our grandmothers' day by the family cricket. It was literally on winter nights "the cricket on the hearth," though not the cricket of Dickens' exquisite carol.

Grandmother's cricket was indeed for the comfort of the sole, and not the soul, for which the English cricket sang its song of cheer. I think it must truly have taken its name from that cheerful bug, however, and in my own irreverent girlhood this particular green cricket was known to me as the beetle; a very ungraceful, sprawling beetle it was, with four slim legs which supported the block of wood that represented its body, by being stuck into its four corners at most astonishing angles.

The top had been worn hollow with supporting generations of feet (one at a time, for it was a very small cricket) and repeated scrubbing, which kept the well-worn wood as soft and white as creamy velvet, while the under side and the four slim legs still wore proudly the dress of green paint put on with a loving touch eighty-five years before.

Sitting one evening before the wide, open fire, with my foot on the green cricket, it told me its secrets, which, as may be supposed, had much to do with the people under whose feet the wooden cricket had passed; taking to itself, as the years went by, the semblance of human sympathy for those who cared for it, and took it into the intimate companionship of daily life.

It began to be a cricket in a carpenter-shop, when Derry Murtagh came in, just as the store was closing one day, looking for a hit of wood, for what purpose he seemed shy about telling, and finally suiting himself, he bore this particular piece away, tucking it under his coat as though it was not to be seen. It was an innocent mystery, as proved, for Derry was anxious to fashion with his own hands some comfort for his young wife on the first anniversary of their wedding-day. He was not a mechanic, and it was with much awkward handling of borrowed tools that he finally shaped the cricket and inserted its sprawling legs. He painted it green, although he had started to paint it white. The shopman, who had mixed the wrong shade for somebody, had the sample standing, and laughingly said to Derry:

"The white will cost you something, and if it is only a cricket you may paint it with that, if you like, and have it for the taking away."

So Derry painted the cricket green; and that was his first mistake. For Tess Murtagh had a mind of her own, and had confided to Derry her need of a cricket to keep her feet off the floor when she was sewing in the winter, and the door ajar to let in the air in summer; but she quite forgot to tell him that the one color which was an abomination in her sight was green. So, when Derry gave her a sounding kiss on her rosy cheek and swung the cricket, radiant in its new coat, over her shoulder, instead of the delight with which he expected her to greet it he was quite chilled by her exclamation of disgust.

"It looks like a nasty green bug for all the world," she exclaimed, in answer to his look of surprise. "What did you paint it that for when I wanted it white?"

She tried to atone for her abruptness when she saw how disappointed was Derry; but we all know that nothing quite takes away the sting of finding that our plans for another's pleasure have gone sadly astray.

Tess was a childish creature, and it fell out that a few days after, when her aunt drove over the mountain with her little girl, the cricket served as companion and toy. When night came, as they settled themselves uncomfortably upon the crowded seat to make room for the child, she appeared hugging the green cricket in her chubby arms. It was probably but an impulse that made Tess lift the child and burden into the buggy, and seat her upon the cricket, much to the comfort of her elders.

"It's yours, now," she said, "and you may keep it always."

It was quite conceivable that Tess, who was not of a particularly sensitive nature, dismissed the subject from her mind until some weeks had elapsed. At this time a holiday allowed Derry to remain at home, and when they started for a picnic tramp together, to join other young friends, Derry, always thoughtful of his wife's comfort, conceived the notion of taking along the cricket, that she might rest without danger from the damp grass. His search, of course, was vain, and when he appealed to Tess, she laughingly confessed to having given away his gift within a week after receiving it.

Poor Derry was cut to the heart, remembering the hours that he had struggled to make his modest offering worthy. Tess's action, which was at the worst but thoughtless, assumed to him the very color of contempt. He was quite too proud to let her see his wound, however, and only showed by an unwonted coolness that anything had occurred; while merry, stupid Tess was quite unconscious of any change in his manner.

It seemed a foolish fact to record that from this on the Murtaghs drifted farther apart

daily. Matters at last came to public comment in this wise: Tess came smilingly in one afternoon from gossip with two of her village friends to find Derry sitting glumly before the fireplace with crackling flames roaring up the chimney. Glowing from her brisk walk, Tess gave a great gasp at the heat of the room, and leaving open the door through which she entered, exclaimed:

"Is it planning you are to cook the supper on the table, that you heat the room to a holl?"

She dashed up the window as she spoke, leaning her rosy face against the casing with a merry laugh at Derry. He, poor fellow, with chills running over his usually healthy body, was too ill to realize Tess' actual state of mind. Wounded by her lack of surprise or solicitude upon finding him at home at that early hour, he felt still more her indifference to his comfort and selfish regard for her own, betokened by her act.

"I'm not caring for any supper," he said, rising hastily as the keen draft swept across him; and seizing his hat from the floor at his side he stepped heavily through the open door and down the road toward the village.

It did not occur to Tess that her husband would not be back soon any more than it entered her unimaginative mind to conjure reasons for apprehension in any vagary of which he might be guilty. She had really been full of a gay hit of gossip that she had meant to tell Derry, about one of his former sweethearts, when the sight of him and the stuffiness of the room turned her easily diverted attention aside.

As the air cooled and the kettle sang its supper song, her mind came back to the gossip about Tilly Trask, and she went to the door, from the now waiting meal, to see if Derry was in sight. The wind blew back the waves of the dark hair from her low forehead, and her white, strong throat felt no chill, although unprotected by her loosely knotted yellow kerchief. The dash of color against her neatly fitting dress of black brought out a Spanish fire in her eyes and creamy skin, making a pretty picture in the doorway. It was midnight when she made her last survey of the silent road and halted the door, leaving Derry for the first time on the outside—and where, she could not guess.

With a shrinking from making a great fuss over what was likely to be one of Derry's "notions" (for she had not recognized his vexation), another night came before Tess made up her mind that something was wrong, and in the early morning started out to discover Derry.

Inquiries, at first cautious and then thoroughly frightened, elicited no explanation of Derry's disappearance further than that he had complained of his head and feeling chilly to his employer, and had finally gone home. No one could remember seeing him pass, and although the neighbors and Tess' brother continued for ten days to follow every chance suggestion, a general idea finally prevailed that Derry had gone from Portsmouth to sea while out of his wits with fever.

Tess, who had been taken to her brother's house, fretted for a fortnight like a spoiled child, and then one morning she arose and went about gathering up her belongings, at the same time announcing that she was "going home." No coaxing could draw forth the reason or change her decision. As her brother's wife watched her walking swiftly out of sight, she said to her husband:

"She's got the mother-look on her face to-day, Hiram. If Tess had a child of her own I would say 'she is going home to her baby.'"

It is indeed the "mother-look," for Tess knew now what she had only suspected before her husband's absence, and like the healthful country girl that she was, had given herself no uneasiness as long as Derry was there to protect and cheer her. Now, however, she seemed to awaken to a new sense of her duties, and all the aroused womanhood in her heart concentrated itself in one never-ceasing cry for Derry—her good, patient Derry. Where was he?

The third morning after her return, when she had tossed sleeplessly for hours, Tess fell into a restless slumber and dreamed that she saw Derry, thin and pale, in a narrow white bed, beyond which stretched a long row of other white beds, from each of which Derry's hollow eyes looked at her in much reproach. She rose weeping, and too heavy hearted to carry her sorrow longer alone, the poor girl went, without waiting for breakfast, to the pastor's house to tell her dream and all that went before.

"The dream is nothing, Mrs. Murtagh," said the good man, "unless God sent it to suggest that your husband is sick in a hospital. Have you thought of that?"

To Tess, who had never seen a hospital, the rows of white beds in her dream had conveyed no such possibility, and she could hardly be persuaded to go home and prepare herself for the long ride to Portsmouth, where was the nearest hospital, and the fatigue of her probable search. On reaching her house she was surprised to find the door ajar, and a great leap of her heart almost suffocated her at the thought of who must be awaiting her. A cry of disappointment escaped her, as she faced the good woman whose little girl had been the innocent cause of giving the first deep wound to poor Derry.

"I'll go along myself, Tess," she said, when her niece had explained her troubles. So it

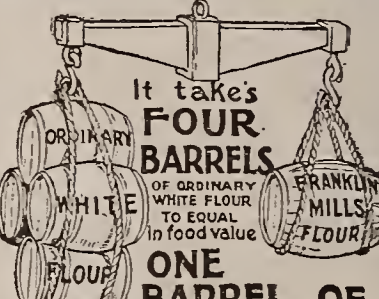


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was that the visitor's hour found two anxious women waiting to inquire for Derry.

"Yes," was the welcome answer of the guard after a word to a man in a little cubby-hole of an office, "there is a man of that name in the convalescent ward; he's likely in the yard taking the sun."

Tess could hardly realize what was the new, strange feeling that made her heart beat and her breath come fast, while her eyes burned as if with unshed tears, and yet she never felt less like crying. Poor as were the accommodations of those primitive days for the patients, the array of rooms and long stretches of corridor, filled with that sickening mingling of disinfectants which made them faint, seemed very imposing to Tess as they hurried forward. Finally they halted to speak to an attendant, who, after a moment's low conversation with their guide, turned to Tess.

"Your husband left yesterday," she said, sympathetically, "he did not say where he was going, or that anyone would be likely to inquire for him, although he asked often when he was first over the fever."

"No," she continued, in answer to the older woman's question, "he was not dangerously ill. A chill and high fever that went to his head, and someone found him asleep on the damp ground, or nearer senseless, for he was quite bewildered for a time even after we had broken up the fever."

"Did he—he speak of any one?" Tess asked, brokenly.

"Yes; once he said he would like to be able to get to 'Mrs. Marley's in Brompton' as soon as he could."

"Why, that's me!" exclaimed Tess' aunt. "I'd best be getting home, for the poor lad's likely enough expecting to find his wife with me."

It was late at night before the weary women reached Brompton and Mrs. Marley's house, and then only to find that Derry had not been there, at which discovery Tess could with difficulty be detained from going on to her own home sure that Derry would be waiting there for her. It did seem that discouragements beset the distressed young creature who had, until within a short time, felt so little care or heart-ache. When she was ready to start for home she begged the little green cricket to take back with her, saying, with a sort of a sobbing laugh:

"I've had no luck since I gave it away, Aunt Marley, and I'd like it anyway, because it was Derry's first present to me, ugly as it is."

It did not look ugly to Tessy any longer as she held it fast in her hands all the way home. In truth, it seemed to whisper comfort which she needed doubly when she found the rooms of her cozy house as silent as when she left it. Another long day of waiting, and then a letter from Mrs. Marley, who was full of news. Derry had been there; coming in quite unexpected at the last when they had given up looking for him. He had "been looking for work," he said, and made light of his sickness and seemed surprised to learn that they had thought it worth while to look him up.

"Indeed," wrote her aunt, "he seems to have still some crazy notion of the fever in his head, for he only laughed in my face in a queer way that gave one the creeps when I said as you 'was crying and troubled enough at his staying away.'"

"It's no good going home," he says at last, 'till I can take something besides myself. I'm none so dull as I was a year ago, and I know my value to Tess by this time, I hope."

"Then he looks all around, sharp-like, and asks, for all the world like yourself, for the green cricket."

"I'd like to have it, if you or your little girl wouldn't mind," he said, and then when I said how sorry I was that you had taken it away with you, he looked at me as sharp as anything, and says:

"What did Tess want with it? She gave it away herself."

"(She said,' says I, 'it was the first thing that Derry gave me, an' I've had no luck since it went away."

"Did she say that?" he says, and then he says quick, he'll go along hunting work and 'good-by,' and that's the last I saw of Derry."

No Derry had appeared, and the letter must be two days old at least; but Tessy was learning to be patient in her trouble, and when the rooms were sweet and clean and the fire freshened, she gave a last soothing touch to her hair and settled herself to finish the baby's tiny sock, on which she was knitting. Unconsciously a smile gathered about her rosy lips, and the mother-look came back to her face, as in and out flew the busy needles, while one foot rested on the friendly green cricket now back on its own hearth.

She did not hear the door unclose, so deep was her dream of the little feet that would sometime wear the pretty socks into holes. Then she felt two hands clasp over her eyes, and flung herself out of their grasp and into the arms of Derry with such a cry of eager joy as must have paid the honest fellow for all his past pains.

"I knew it was all right," he said that night after supper, as he laid his hand on the brown, strong hand of Tessy. "I knew it when I heard that you'd taken home (because I gave it to you) the little cricket, even if it did look to you like a horrid green bug."

"Oh, but it don't any more," she said, "and (shyly) children always like to play with crickets, you know, Derry."

Neither of them laughed, but Derry drew her closer as his glance fell for the first time

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upon the knitting that she had once more taken up. The cricket respected and understood the sacred silence that fell between them, and ended the story just here.

INTELLIGENT BREAD SELECTION.

White flour, although it may be made from the finest wheat ever grown, does not and cannot make healthful, strength-producing bread, because it has been robbed of the gluten which is the nitrogenized nutritive element that the Almighty intended and decreed should be the blood-making, brain-feeding portion of the wheat-berry. Gluten is never white in color, and every housewife should bear in mind the fact that starch, which is the inferior element of wheat, constitutes almost the entire bulk of the foolishly fashionable white flour that is causing so much lack of development among children, and making so many strong adults weak.

Graham flour, even though it be handled by the baker to the queen, cannot make a bread that is easy of digestion and nourishing to the body, because it always contains a large proportion of the woody, coarse, and oftentimes dirty outer husk, which has no food value whatever, but which an all-wise Providence intended only as a protection and covering for the pure and exquisitely proportioned food elements constituting the matured wheat kernel. Graham bread is always irritating to weak stomachs, and invariably leaves the stomach before it has had time to be digested and assimilated.

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Wheat, originated and made only by the Franklin Mills Co., Lockport, N. Y., and which is without doubt the purest flour in the world, makes the best bread now known to house-keeping or culinary science, because it contains (reduced to an even fineness) all the bone, muscle, brain and nerve feeding elements of the wheat kernel, so unfortunately lacking in white flour, and is entirely free from the woody outer husk that makes Graham flour so coarse and so painfully indigestible. The beautiful, light, golden-brown bread made from this flour has a rich, satisfying flavor that no other bread can possess, and it has no equal among the products of wheat as a natural, healthful and strength-building food. The readers of FARM AND FIRESIDE should write to the makers of this flour, mentioning this paper, and secure, free of all charge, their valuable booklet, which, beside giving much valuable information, will demonstrate the fact that this flour, beside being immeasurably the best, is also the cheapest flour ever known, and gives more food value for the same money than any other flour in the world.

AMERICAN-MADE SHOES THE BETTER.

It is the uniform testimony of Americans when they return from an extended visit abroad that they can get neater, better and more durable shoes here than they can in England and Germany, and for less money. The dexterity of the American operatives and the perfection of the American machinery are combining to bring to this country the shoe manufacturing business of a large part of the world.—Burlington Hawkeye.

CAMP OUTFITS OF ALUMINIUM.

Among the new things which are being made of aluminium are camping-sets of culinary utensils, advertised as Klondike outfits, which are marvels of lightness. An outfit for six persons consists of thirty-nine separate pieces and weighs complete but thirteen pounds. It comprises four cooking-pots, a coffee-pot, two frying-pans, six cups, six knives, six forks, six spoons and six plates, a salt-shaker and a pepper-shaker. The pots are oval in form. The biggest one measures ten and one half inches one way by seven and one fourth inches the other, and the whole set is made so as to pack into this one. An outfit for three persons, consisting of twenty-one pieces, weighs six and one fourth pounds only, and an outfit for two persons, containing fifteen pieces, weighs only four pounds.—New York Sun.

"Money is very scarce here just now," writes Mrs. Alice Martin, Yoakum, Texas, "and people are all acting on the principle of 'a penny saved is a penny earned.' But none can withhold appreciation of the FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION. The latter is so dainty and graceful all feel that in ordering it they are making the best possible investment of fifty cents, one that will bring returns fourfold. I have been taking subscriptions for another ladies' journal at a higher price, but find a great many prefer the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION because of its crispness and bright freshness, while the difference in price arrests universal and always surprised attention."

Our Household.

A COWBOY BALL.

Git yo' little sage-hens ready,
Trot 'em out upon the floor;
Line up there, you cusses! Steady.
Lively, now! One couple more.
Shorty, shed that old sombrero,
Bronco, douse that cigarette;
Stop that cussin', Casimero,
'Fore the ladies! Now, all set!

S'lute your ladies, all together!
Ladies opposite the same;
Hit the lumber with your leathers!
Balance all an' swing your dame!
Bunch the heifers in the middle;
Circle stags and do-se-do!
Pay attention to the fiddle!
Swing her round and off you go!

First four forward! Back to places!
Second follow—shuffle back!
Now you've got it down to cases—
Swing 'em till their trotters crack!
Gents all right a-heel and toin'!
Swing 'em, kiss 'em if you kin—
On to next and keep a-goin'
Till yer hit yer pards ag'in!

Gents to center; ladies round 'em—
Form a basket; balance all!
Whirl yer gals to where you found 'em;
Promenade around the hall!
Balance to your pards and trot 'em
Round the circle double quick!
Grab an' kiss 'em while you've got 'em;
Hold 'em to it if they kick!

Ladies, left hand to your sonnies!
Alaman! Grand right and left!
Balance all an' swing yer honeys!
Pick 'em up and feel their heft!
Promenade like skeery cattle;
Balance all an' swing yer sweets!
Shake yer spurs an' make 'em rattle;
Keno! Promenade to seats!
—From the Northwest.

HOME TOPICS.

TEA.—Those who have made a study of the matter tell us that for the sake of the stomach neither cream nor milk should be added to tea. People have learned to like their fragrant cup of tea with sugar and a slice of lemon, and this winter, at many afternoon teas, slices of orange have been substituted and become as popular as lemon. If one would have the tea at its best, a true "cup that cheers," it should never be boiled. If you do not use a tea-ball, have the pot very hot, put in the tea of the kind whose flavor suits you best, a level teaspoonful for a cup and one for the pot. Let it stand over boiling water for two or three minutes, then add water that has just commenced

bag thirty inches long and eighteen inches wide is made, sewed up all around, and a slit sixteen inches long made in the front side from two inches below the top. Two rows of stitching are across the top an inch apart and an inch below the top. Into this inch space a stick nine inches long is run, and in each end of the stick is a screw-eye to which is tied a cord to hang the bag to a hook behind the pantry door. Below the slit another piece of the linen as wide as the bag and long enough to reach to the bottom is stitched on and then stitched through the middle to divide this outside piece into two pockets. The large bag is used for table-cloths and the outside pockets for napkins, doilies, etc.

VEILS.—A specialist in diseases of the eye lately built a handsome new house which, it is reported, he calls his "dotted-veil house," the money to build it having been received in fees for treating diseases of the eyes caused by the patients wearing dotted veils. While this may not be literally true, yet there is no doubt that many eyes have been injured by the "dotted-veil" habit. There seems to have been a reaction the past winter, as many plain veils have been worn, especially the browns in every conceivable shade. If you have trouble in making your veil fit well over your hat or bonnet, tie a little knot in the middle of the upper edge and you will be pleased with the result. The veil will not slip off the front of your hat, neither will it draw too tightly across the face.

READING FOR THE CHILDREN.—The child who loves to read, and in whom a taste for good reading has been developed and cultivated, possesses an unfailing source of enjoyment and improvement that will be a safeguard against many evils. Until the taste for good reading is thoroughly grounded parents cannot be too careful of the reading matter that is in the hands of their children. The world is flooded with worthless, and worse than worthless, positively pernicious, so-called "literature." Reading is a powerful aid in the formation of character, and hence nothing is of more importance in the training of children than a wise supervision of their reading. The unsullied character of our children is too priceless to take the risk of contamination by much of the so-called popular literature of the day. We are careful that our children are comfortably and healthfully clothed and fed; how much more careful should we be that proper food is given their minds instead of the useless, even poisonous trash that is, unfortunately, so easy of access? Avoid the story-papers of questionable character that are sent

literature is so firmly established that anything which is even weak and trashy will be rejected.
MAIDA McL.

SHIRT-WAIST MATERIALS.

These are in endless variety. Some in plaids so loud as to be almost heard, others in the daintiest of small checks and tiny flowered material. Those who are having their waists built at home are securing the services of a first-class fitter and choosing very choice materials, giving them in this way an individuality. For unless one pays



a good price the material of the shirt-waist of commerce is too often a great disappointment. One does not relish paying from \$1.50 to \$2.50 for a waist that lasts only till the first wash. The fit of the bought shirt-waist is usually fine, and if the material was as good it would be far easier to buy them all. Wide ribbons fringed at the ends and tied in four-in-hand will be worn a great deal; the lace tie will also appear again.

In belts, the metal ones predominate, but are not advised unless of very good material. The velvet ribbons upon a stiffened back are better for all-time wear. While sashes for the younger girls will be worn almost exclusively, leather belts will keep their shape best if a good one is the first purchase. Beautiful ornaments in pearl buckles are used upon velvet or ribbon; they come in round, oval and half-moon shapes at ten cents apiece. They are small and make a very pretty trimming.

All sorts of stock collars are shown to wear with thin waists and silk ones. These are made of laces, ribbons, chiffon and Liberty silk. A linen collar is used as a foundation, which, when limp, can be re-laundersed; made upon this it is sure to fit. It is very handy to have the neck-dressing all ready adjusted so as to take but little time to put it on. Avoid wearing them after they are badly soiled.
E. K.

EASTER BREAKFAST.

This can be made a very attractive meal, so that the children will always look forward to it with pleasure. First the spotless linen, and then the brightening up with the colored eggs. These can be of candy, gelatin or the real article, as preferred. For the gelatin ones, blow some duck-eggs and rinse out with water; stop up one end with pasted paper, fill with the gelatin preparation and put upon ice to stiffen, if the weather out of doors is not cool enough. These should be made fully a day and a half beforehand.

To set the table attractive use a table-mirror in the center, with water-cress or moss about it; place the decorative candy eggs about this, and at the ends of the table a low vase of crocuses, while here and there on the cloth may be laid a jonquil, with one at each place.

For a menu you can have egg muffins, soft-boiled eggs, eggs on toast, egg omelet, egg salad, egg cakes, thin sandwiches, coffee, cocoa. As these are all familiar recipes any one can readily prepare them. Use water-cresses freely to decorate the table.
REN.

SPRING SUITS.

The two illustrations given are very good models to copy in remodeling one's wardrobe, and the little girl's suit is a very choice model.

A COUGH SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are a simple remedy and give immediate relief. Avoid imitations.

"In three afternoons I got the inclosed twenty-seven subscriptions for WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, and am promised as many more next week, and a large list next month. People wonder how such a magazine can be supplied at fifty cents a year, and so do I. It is easy to get subscribers."—Mrs. J. L. Chapman, Hudson, Ohio.

SPRING WORK.

Of all seasons of the year, it seems as if the spring was the busiest to the prudent housewife who has charge of the many departments in a well-ordered home.

There are the provisions stored in the cellar, many of which must have extra attention before warm weather comes. Sausage can be cooked, packed tightly down with a potato-masher, or laid down in balls or slices with a weight over; cover in either case with hot lard; when nearly cold remove the plate and weight and fill the space with hot lard. Ham can be sliced, cooked and packed in similar way. When the slices become too small and full of gristle to be choice, lay that bone aside, and when through with all of the packing, boil up the ham-bones; when cooked, remove all meat, chop fine, season with pepper and prepared mustard, yolk of an egg to a pint of meat; mix thoroughly, place in a basin, and press. This is excellent for sandwiches. Boiled beef mixed with the ham is an improvement if one is not fond of so much fat meat, and in that case add a cupful of the beef broth, or stock, also, before pressing. If there was any corned beef on hand which was in danger of spoiling, I think I should try cooking and packing that, using hot tallow to cover instead of lard.

And now we will take a look at the dried fruits before Mr. Bluebottle makes his tour of investigation, leaving plenty of company to help consume the provisions. Fruits that are to be used for sauce, as prunes, peaches, apricots or apples, can be stewed, sweetened or not, as one prefers, and then canned; then they are safe from all depredations, and there are usually



plenty of empty cans at this season of the year. Raisins or currants should have boiling water poured over them to destroy any insect that warm weather may develop; drain well, spread thin on a cloth-covered tray or dripping-pan and dry again, then put in bottles or cans having tight covers.

And even with the rounds of the storehouse made our work is not completed; to the closets we must go and see that the overcoats, cloaks and heavier winter garments are cleaned and ready to pack away before the moth-miller makes his yearly pilgrimage, seeking the best material, of course, for his abiding-place. Do not lay aside the flannel underwear too quickly, unless it may be to change to lighter garments.

And now comes the bane of women's life—housecleaning. As every one seems to have a way of her own for this especial vocation, perhaps the less said the better; only one word of caution. Do not take out



to boil; cover the pot, set it over boiling water five minutes, and it is ready to serve.

A HANDY BAG.—A few years ago I bought a bag at a church fair which I have found very convenient to hang in the pantry as a receptacle for soiled table-linen. The bag is made of gray linen. First a straight

broadcast all over the country and almost forced into homes. Read to the children and accustom them to read to you, and be sure that enough good, wholesome reading is provided to leave no room for any other kind. Do not leave the choice of mental food to the unaided judgment of a child until you are sure the taste for the best

the stoves too early in this changeable climate. To be the first in this war of dirt and health—ah, yes, it is sometimes cleanliness at the expense of health, where one does not combine good sense with the scrubbing-brush and mop. It is not wise to tear up more than one room at a time, unless something unusual demands it. It is not safe to sleep in a newly papered room until the walls have become dry. It is not healthful or soothing to the "good man's" temper to subsist on pieces and cold lunches during the period of housecleaning; give him one square meal a day at least.

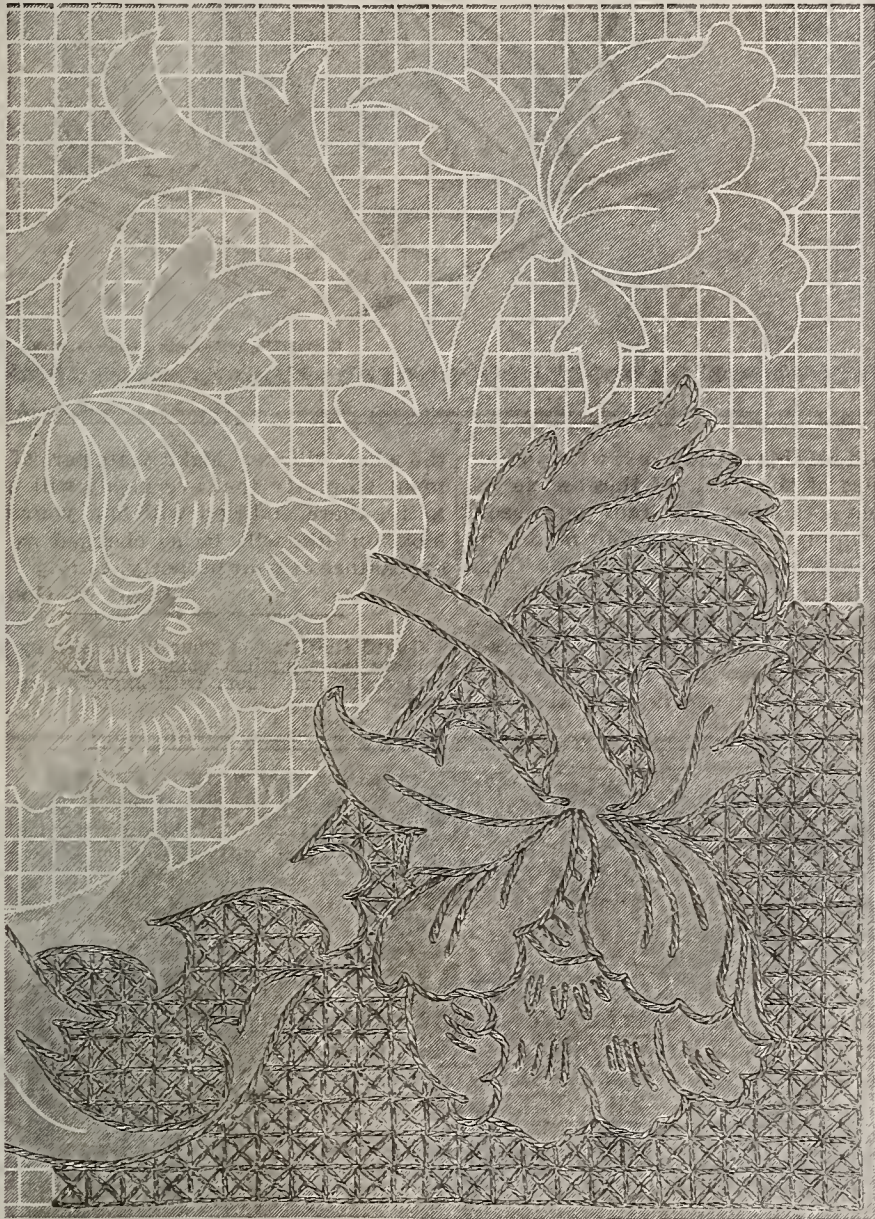
Gypsy.

KASARA WORK.

A new and very effective kind of needle-work we are glad to bring to our readers. As a decorative article it must be worked in bold designs. The groundwork is of scarlet cotton, Turkey red or blue cotton goods. The bold designs are cut out of white satin-faced drilling and basted on and then outlined down with black knitting-silk or the black cotton used in Bulgarian work. The background is laid off in small squares, are outlined both ways, and then filled in with cross-stitch. It is adapted to many pur-

hominy of our grandmothers' time. It took a little longer to introduce it than it did the mush, but when once it became known it found a very ready sale—hotels, restaurants and boarding-houses becoming regular customers, as well as those who bought from the grocery, and soon she had all the trade she could possibly supply at ten cents a quart.

To make the lye, to a gallon of hard-wood ashes she added three gallons of cold water, set over the fire and boiled for about an hour; set off until cool, then carefully strained the lye off. To this she added two quarts of shelled corn, returned it to the pot over the fire, and boiled until the husk would slip off. This she ascertained by cooling a few grains and rubbing between the fingers. It took from fifteen to thirty minutes, according to the strength of the lye. The corn was then dipped into cold water, and with the hands rubbed through two or three waters until the husk was removed; after which it was again returned to the pot, together with two or three gallons of cold water, and boiled two or three hours, or until tender, keeping the pot carefully covered and replenishing the water as necessary.



poses, and best for large effects, such as bedspreads, large cushions, chair-backs and curtain-friezes. It is rapidly done, and bids fair to compete with other kinds of fancy-work and prove much of a favorite, especially to those who do not care to apply themselves to close embroidery. E. B. R.

LITTLE MONEY-MAKERS.

Most farmers have complained at the low price of corn for the last few seasons, but one ingenious woman living near town hit upon a plan to make even that low-priced article yield a handsome profit. The nicest, firmest ears were selected, taken to mill and ground into "unbolted meal." This she sifted herself and made into mush, making it a trifle thinner than it is usually made, molded it in quart molds and sold it at ten cents a mold, for frying. She was careful to salt it "just right," and added the least tint of sugar—not enough to make it sweet, just enough to give it a delicate flavor. The molds were wet when the mush was put in, and turned out neatly and smoothly when cold. Two or three of them on a pretty platter in the grocer's showcase soon attracted attention, and in a few days' time she had ready sale for all she could make. Of course, she was careful to select a grocer having a large town trade. A fancy sign in the window advertised it, and at once won it friends.

Pleased with her success in selling mush she tried making the old-fashioned lye

After a few weeks this method became too tedious to supply her growing trade, so an old-fashioned ash-hopper, such as our grandmothers used to use to "run off lye" for the annual soap-making, was set up, and in this way the supply of lye was more easily obtained. The corn was boiled out of doors over an open fire, in a great iron kettle holding ten or twelve gallons.

The longer the corn is cooked in the lye the more of the lye taste it absorbs. Some like this pretty pronounced, others do not, therefore it is well to ascertain a customer's tastes and cater to it.

Something to eat is always sure of a ready sale just so it is the best of the kind, and especially if it reminds one of childhood days. CLARA SENSIBAUGH EVERTS.

Menander said that all diseases were curable by sleep—a broad statement in which there may be some truth, for good sleepers are ever the most curable patients; and I would always rather hear that a sick person had slept than that he had taken regularly the prescribed medicine during sleeping-hours.—Sir B. W. Richardson.

A HANDSOME METAL PAPER CUTTER AND BOOK MARK COMBINED

Sent free of postage under sealed cover on receipt of ten cents in silver or stamps. The latest, best and most serviceable adjunct of every library and office. Address Geo. H. Heafford, 410 Old Colony Building, Chicago, Ill.

WHAT IS YOUR FORTUNE

A woman's hand tells the tale!
If it is smooth and white it shows she uses her head to save her hands—that she uses

GOLD DUST WASHING POWDER

to do her cleaning. If her hand is rough, wrinkled and shrunken, it shows she is still using the old soap and soda combination. Why don't you use Gold Dust Washing Powder?

Largest package—greatest economy.
THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,
Chicago. St. Louis. New York.
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A MEANS OF DEFENSE! READY TO HAND!

Protect home and family by taking out Life Insurance in

THE PRUDENTIAL

which with its many plans can meet every want in the way of Life Insurance. THE PRUDENTIAL has

ASSETS, . \$23,984,569.72
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Insures children, women and men. Ages 1--70. Amounts \$50,000 to \$15. Premiums payable yearly, half-yearly, quarterly, weekly.

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The Prudential Insurance Company of America,
JOHN F. DRYDEN, President. HOME OFFICE, Newark, N. J.

This Cut is 1-2 Actual Size of Watch and Chain.

Watch and Chain FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

We send this Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm to Boys and Girls for selling 1½ dozen packages of BLUINE at 10c. each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine, postpaid, and a large Premium List.

No money required. We send the Blaine at our own risk. You go among your neighbors and sell it. Send us the money that you get for it and we send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, prepaid.

This is an American Watch, Nickel-Plated Case, Open Face, Heavy Bevelled Crystal. It is Guaranteed to keep Accurate Time, and with proper care should last Ten Years.

BLUINE CO., BOX 167, CONCORD JUNCTION, MASS.

BICYCLES \$25.00

'98 MODEL. HIGH GRADE GUARANTEED. SAME GRADE AS SOLD FOR \$75.00

WE WANT TO SELL DIRECT TO RIDER. WE SHIP WHEELS ANYWHERE ON APPROVAL. ON TIME IF YOU WANT IT. 2nd Hand Wheels \$5 to \$15. Send for List. WRITE FOR CATALOGUE.

OSCAR S. LEAR & CO.
COLUMBUS, OHIO

PLEASE TRY

Cascarets

CANDY CATHARTIC

REGULATE THE LIVER

10c. 25c. 50c. All Druggists.

Agents Wanted

EVERY WOMAN

Can buy a WORLD'S WASHER on trial and no money paid until it is perfectly satisfactory. Washes easy. Clothes clean, sweet and white as snow. Child can use it. I pay freight. Circulars free. C. E. ROSS, 10 Clean St., Lincoln, Ill.

You Dye in 30 minutes

Turkey Red on Cotton or Wool that won't freeze, boil or wash out. Carpets, Dresses and clothing made to look like new, no experience necessary with Tunk's French Dyes. To introduce them send 4c. for 6 packages or 10c. for one any color. Big pay agents FRENCH DYE CO., Box 310, VASSAR, MICH.

TYPEWRITER HEADQUARTERS,

102 Fulton st., New York, sell all makes under half price. Don't buy before writing them for unprejudiced advice and prices. Exchanges. Immense stock for selection. Shipped for trial. Guaranteed first class. Largest house in the world. Dealers supplied. 55-page illus. cat. free.

SOLD! UNDER A Positive Guarantee

to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the wristbands and collar of the dirtiest shirt, and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washer, which will be sent on trial at wholesale price. If not satisfactory, money will be refunded. Agents wanted. For exclusive territory, terms & prices, write Portland Mfg. Co., Box 4, Portland, Mich.

25c 35c 50c

INDIANOLA LEATHER SUSPENDERS

A million men wear them. Self-adjusting, no strain on the buttons, never wear out. Try the stores, or we will send them post-paid to any address. Plain leather, 25c; enamel, 35c; fancy kid cushion back, 50c. Single round principle, every pair stamped, take no other.

INDIANOLA SUSPENDER CO.,
173 S. Canal Street, Chicago.

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by Anna A. Gordon, Miss Willard's private secretary for over 20 years. The only book authorized and endorsed by the W. C. T. U. Over 1,000,000 copies will be sold. The Greatest Seller of the Century. Write for outfit. Best terms. Circular free. Act quick. Don't miss this. J. S. ZIEGLER & CO., 325 Dearborn St., Chicago

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CROOKED PEOPLE

made straight FOR \$1.50. Send for circulars. Gamble Shoulder Brace Co., 821½ Reaper Block, Chicago, Illinois.

Our Household.

OUR BILLY.

BY R. S. S.

A jolly young scamp was our Billy,
A hoisterous, dare-devil lad,
Too brimmin' with life to be goody,
Too honest to ever be bad;
But our ways was not to his likin',
A rougher lot suited him best.
There was tears in our eyes when he left us
An' struck for the unsettled West.

An' oft as we set by the chimbley,
Tears streamed to our cheeks—tears o' joy—
When Maria she read to the fambly
The letters 'at come from our boy;
'Cause the new life was full o' romances,
An' many's the joke that he writ
'Bout Injuns an' fun on the ranches,
An' bread 'at an ax wouldn't split.

But somehow his letters grewed double
The distance apart every day;
He never said nothin' o' trouble,
But his fun sort o' faded away.
Then he went to one place an' another,
An' seemed pretty much on the roam.
Six months back he writ to his mother:
Since then—how we miss 'im at home!

"I'm going from here to Seattle,
Address me your next letter there;
One treacherous trail with my cattle,
Then life will have lost half its care."
But again there's two hearts bowed in sorrow,
Souls sighing, an' cheeks that are wet.
Our letters come back! Oh, to borrow
The hope we might hear from him yet!

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS.

A n important factor in forming a village improvement association is to have several people endowed with the blessed gift of tact to introduce the plan. It seems to be women's legitimate work. In many towns her peculiar fitness for municipal housecleaning and beautifying are so well recognized that men are admitted to these associations only as honorary members. A band of tactful women can get concessions from councilmen and corporations which men work for in vain. A good plan, therefore, is for the ladies' literary and social clubs to set apart a day for the discussion of village improvement associations, what they have done for other towns, and what a lively, well-organized society could do for your own town.

Get the superintendent and teachers in the public schools to give talks to the pupils on this subject. Keep the agitation moving in your own neighborhood, and an excellent plan is to buy the back numbers of magazines containing good articles on village improvement, and pass them around among those indifferent to this subject, for this is a work which needs the heartiest co-operation of every man, woman and child in the town. Then when the people seem aroused have a free lecture on this topic by some spirited talker, and immediately after the lecture organize your society. A gentleman of thirty years' experience in the work strongly advises that all associations be incorporated. By so doing, their work will be more deliberately and wisely undertaken. They will not rush into some big work, badly planned, which, later on, will cause time and money to correct. The annual fees in some places are as much as five dollars, but that is high enough for an honorary member; you will probably do far better to put your fees for active members at one dollar, children, twenty-five cents, and get every child in the village interested. District the town and make policemen of the very boys whose mischief and destructive powers you fear, and you will find your trees and plants are safer than you could make them in any other way. Offer rewards for destruction of trees and flowers, and when detected make the lesson a severe one to the offender. Divide your members into committees on tree-planting, sidewalks, parks, water-works, alleys, back yards, garbage and waste disposal. You probably can only reach the water-works and sewer question by arousing public sentiment, but you can prevent streets, alleys and yards from being dirty and unkempt. Offer prizes to boys from twelve to sixteen years of age for the best-kept back yard; the girls usually look after the front yard without urging. Offer prizes for the best-kept flower-bed, the best chrysanthemum, the best and thriftiest trees of one season's growth, the best lawn. Have a chrysanthemum show, if possible, each autumn. In one town in New Jersey the association

bought thousands of bulbs of hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, snowdrops and all the varieties of cheaper bulbs, and distributed them through the poorer quarters of the town, and in the spring thousands of packets of flower-seeds were bought and given away, and the children were taught to bloom the bulbs and how to germinate and grow plants from the seeds, and a letter tells me it was the best investment they had made, and the most instructive object-lesson the children could have had. Windows and dirty rooms were cleaned, that the gay flower might not look out of place. Back yards of the tenement district were cleaned, that room for the flower-beds could be had; and one whole square kept ward and watch over a row of hardy chrysanthemums. One enthusiast in Massachusetts thinks the offers of prizes for the best-kept back yard has revolutionized their village. In one district which had been considered especially difficult, the alleys and yards were kept in order, and in some instances, where space permitted, were laid out in walks, grass plots and flower-beds, showing taste and ingenuity. The city fathers were, for shame's sake, compelled to put the streets in better order.

Many towns have adopted neat zinc receptacles for garbage. These buckets or cylinders hold over six gallons, and have lids to cover the unsightly contents. For convenience of the men who gather the garbage, the authorities prefer these receptacles be kept on the sidewalk, but in many places they are kept in the back yards.

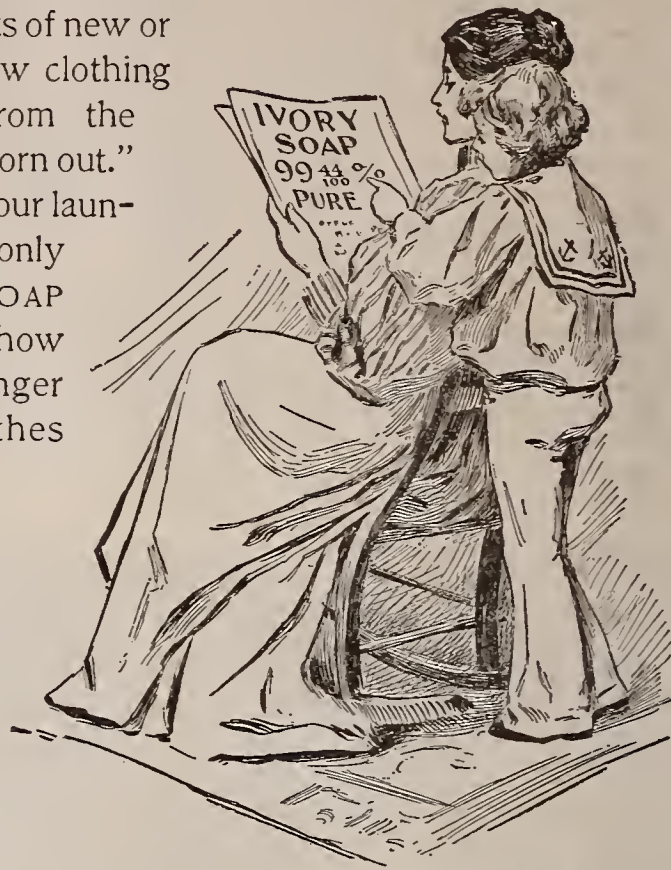
Another branch of this work is putting the grounds around railroad stations in more attractive guise. As a rule, the railroad companies heartily further the work by a gift of land for park purposes, and gifts of trees and plants to adorn the same, and they keep the stations cleaner and smarter looking where such interest is shown in their surroundings. To show what may be done, I will cite one village of seven hundred inhabitants in my own state of Ohio. Wyoming, a suburb of Cincinnati, has a very active association. Owing to its efforts the railroad station is the prettiest on that entire system of roads. The citizens have planted hundreds of trees, and laid miles of cement walks; it has street-sprinkling service through the summer and a public hall for literary and social gatherings. Much of their money has been raised by bazaars and fairs, which is legitimate work of such affairs, and not raising money for churches. Wealthy residents are apt to take a lively interest in this work, and many a pretty little park through the villages of our country attest their liberality.

Sheridan Drive, out from Chicago, is another notable example of such work. The drive is now twenty-eight miles long, and there is talk of completing it to Milwaukee, over fifty miles away. The drive is in sight of the lake nearly all the way; it passes through many beautiful villages, chief of which for its beauty, as well as its fame for being the home of Miss Frances Willard, is Evanston. In time it is thought the entire drive will be an unbroken line of fine country dwellings. Any glen or natural bit of scenery along the way has been made the most of, and landscape-gardeners have been sent out to suggest any improvements; beautiful trees line the drive, and fine effects have been made in grouping trees for their variety of foliage. Naturally, land along this drive commands fancy prices, but on a smaller scale is it anything more than can be done in any town? Is there one of us whose eyes and heart have not been gladdened, when, in traveling, we have passed a clean, well-kept farm with its pretty home and tidy outbuildings? Every head on that side of the car turns to watch it. And a pretty, shady village looks so clean and restful that you long to stop and rest and know the cultivated people who have made such a town possible. And a shady bit of road is known the country over. Would it not be very easy to have every road in the country as shady as those few rods? I wish every farmer lad in the United States would set out a hundred trees along the roadside of his farm this year, and do not be afraid to plant nut-bearing trees. I often wonder why persimmon-trees are so scarce; every one in the country is known for miles around and watched. The possibilities of the country are so great that it is hard for me to confine myself to the town. Following this, I will give the young people of both sexes a talking to next month; I mean the young folks who live in the hamlets and on farms.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

It means that Ivory Soap is as pure as it is possible to make it; it means too that if Ivory Soap is used there are no complaints of new or nearly new clothing coming from the wash, "worn out."

Have your laundry use only IVORY SOAP and see how much longer the clothes last.



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I could fill this entire paper with notable examples of the work of these societies, but what is the use? We know our needs; let us supply what we lack in money by harder work and greater enterprise. This is just the time of year to begin work. If you can do no better the first year than to start a neighborhood club to embrace several squares, do that, and by next year the fame of your good deeds will leaven

the whole village. Make your part of the town so pretty that everybody will want to live there, and you will find your outlook on life will be as changed as the appearance of your property.

JESSIE M. GOOD.

Guard the lives of your little ones by protecting them against colds; but if the colds will come, cure them with Jayne's Expectorant.

PERFECT TONE & FINISH CORNISH AMERICAN PIANOS & ORGANS EXCEL ALL OTHER MAKES SAVE HALF FAMILY DIRECT, ONLY ONE WAY.

Purchase Direct at Factory Cost from the Only Firm of Actual Manufacturers of High Grade Pianos and Organs who sell Direct to the General Public Exclusively. All Profits saved to the Purchaser.

One Million Dollars Personal Guarantee at the back of every CORNISH AMERICAN PIANO and ORGAN. Entirely New Catalogue—1898 Models. "An Ancient Egyptian Choir at Early Temple Service," is the subject of the exquisitely beautiful colored art frontispiece presented with our new catalogue of the celebrated CORNISH AMERICAN Pianos and Organs. This interesting picture was designed and painted exclusively for us by an eminent artist and has been reproduced in the original colors. The catalogue contains a complete description of over 50 styles of Pianos and Organs, together with prices and terms of sale. It will be sent to all intending purchasers FREE on application, postage paid. All you have to do is mention this paper and write for it to-day. Remember, our vast business continues on the old basis—pianos and organs at wholesale cost, direct from factory to family; no agents', music stores' or middlemen's profits to pay. The purchaser of a CORNISH AMERICAN Piano or Organ pays only for what he buys.

30 DAYS' TRIAL IN YOUR OWN HOME. CASH OR EASY INSTALLMENTS. No Satisfaction, No Pay. Each instrument fully warranted for 25 years, and safe delivery at destination insured and guaranteed.



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REMEMBER that a prompt response to this advertisement will secure a DISCOUNT OF \$10 on the list prices as quoted in our 1898 Catalogue on any CORNISH Organ, or \$20 on the list prices if you buy a CORNISH Piano. Owing to the very close margin this leaves for manufacturing we are obliged to reserve the right to withdraw this special discount at any time.

Send for particulars of our popular co-partnership plan by which anyone can easily obtain a CORNISH Piano or Organ for nothing. Full explanation with every catalogue. REFERENCES. Our bank, any bank, or any of the multitude of patrons who have purchased millions of dollars worth of instruments from us during the past 36 years. Our new book, "The Heart of the People," containing a thousand recent references, sent FREE. Don't fail to write at once.

High Arm
Warranted for 25 years.
158-164 West Van Buren St., B-7, Chicago, Ill.

PLEASE TRY
Cascarets
CANDY CATHARTIC
REGULATE THE LIVER
10c. 25c. 50c. All Druggists.

TRY IT FREE
for 30 days in your own home and save \$10 to \$25. No money in advance.
\$60 Kenwood Machine for \$23.00
\$50 Arlington Machine for \$19.50
Singers (Made by us) \$8, \$11.50, \$15 and 27 other styles. All attachments FREE. We pay freight. Buy from factory. Save agents' large profits. Over 100,000 in use. Catalogue and testimonials free. Write at once. Address (in full), CASH BUYERS' UNION
158-164 West Van Buren St., B-7, Chicago, Ill.

40 Cent Patterns for 10 Cents

Any TWO PATTERNS, and FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, for 35 CENTS.

These patterns retail in fashion bazaars and stores for twenty-five to forty cents each, but in order to increase the demand for our paper among strangers, and to make it more valuable than ever to our old friends, we offer them to the lady readers of our papers for the low price of only 10 Cents Each.

Full descriptions and directions—as the number of yards of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by. These patterns are complete in every particular, there

being a separate pattern for every single piece of the dress. All orders filled promptly.

For ladies, give BUST measure in inches. For SKIRT pattern, give WAIST measure in inches. For misses, boys, girls or children, give both BUST measure in inches and age in years. Order patterns by their numbers.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.

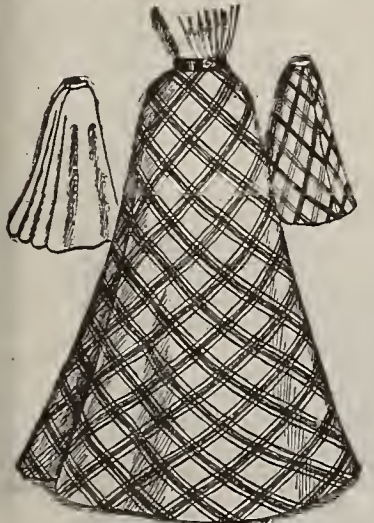
To get BUST and BREAST measure, put the tape-measure ALL of the way around the body, over the dress close under the arms.

Special price of each pattern, 10 cents.

Postage one cent EXTRA on skirt, tea-gown and other heavy patterns.



No. 7339.—LADIES' PELERINE CAPE, to be made with or without stole. 10c. Sizes, large, medium and small.



No. 7291.—LADIES' CIRCULAR SHEATH SKIRT. 11 cents. Sizes, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches waist.



No. 7342.—LADIES' WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7281.—LADIES' RUSSIAN SHIRT-WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust.



No. 7340.—LADIES' FANCY WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7297.—CHILD'S BLOUSE DRESS. 10c. Sizes, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



No. 7337.—LADIES' CAPE. 10 cents. Sizes, large, medium and small.



No. 7333.—LADIES' DRESSING-SACK. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7343.—LADIES' TUCKED WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7341.—GIRL'S GABRILLE APRON. 10c. Sizes, 4, 6, 8 and 10 years.

We will send any two patterns, and Farm and Fireside for one year, for 35 cents.



No. 5000.—LADIES' TEA-GOWN. 11c. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7332.—GIRL'S REEFER JACKET. 10 cents. Sizes, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



No. 7328.—LADIES' JACKET, WITH FLY CLOSING. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7331.—MISSSES' WAIST. 10c. Sizes 12, 14 and 16 years.



No. 7313.—LADIES' SHIRT-WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



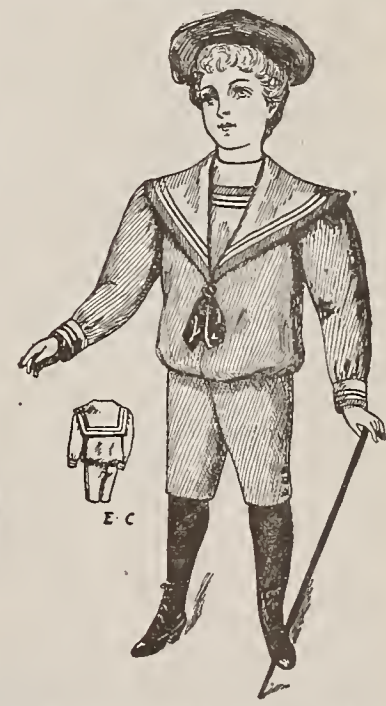
No. 7349.—LADIES' WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.
No. 7351.—LADIES' SKIRT. 11 cents. Sizes, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches waist.



No. 6459.—LADIES' AND MISSSES' SUNBONNETS. The two patterns for 10 cents. Cut in two sizes—Misses' and Ladies'.



No. 6558.—BOYS' KNICKERBOCKER AND KNEE-TROUSERS. 10 cents. Sizes, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



No. 7320.—BOYS' SUIT. 10 cents. Sizes, 4, 6, 8 and 10 years.



No. 7318.—LADIES' AND MISSSES' SHIRT-WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. Misses, 12, 14 and 16 years.

Postage paid by us.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

I KNOW NOT.

I know not if my spirit weaveth ever
The golden fantasies of mine for thee;
I only know my love is a great river,
And thou the sea!

I know not if the time to thee is dreary,
When ne'er to meet we pass the wintry days;
I only know my muse is never weary,
The theme thy praise.

I know not if thy poet heart's emotion
Responsive beats to mine through many a
chord!
I only feel in my untold devotion
A rich reward.

I know not if the grass were waving o'er me,
Would Nature's voice for thee keep sadder
tune;
I only know wert thou gone home before me,
I'd follow soon.

But while thou walk'st the earth with brave
heart ever,
I'll sing to go, though all unwrecked by thee
My great affection floweth like a river,
And thou the sea!

MENTAL LAZINESS.

It is considered a disgrace to be lazy. He who is too indolent to work for his own living becomes a byword or reproach. But there is a very common form of laziness which is not always noticed; it is that of the mind. We first become conscious of it in our young days when we "don't feel like study." We dawdle over the book with our thoughts half asleep, and as a result give a fine exhibition of stupidity in the recitation-room. This sort of indulgence in youth is very dangerous, and it becomes a habit, and the mind grows rusty and dull in the very prime of life, when it should be at its best. On the heels of this form of laziness comes another bad habit—that of intellectual loafing. What loafing is in the common sense we all know; it is hanging about with no definite aim or purpose, idling away the time without profit. Well, there is mental loafing as well, and it is known in the dictionary as "reverie." It is a dreamy state of the mind, when the thoughts go wool-gathering. This habit so common to young people is fatal to mental growth; many a promising youth is ruined by overindulgence in it. It wastes time and enfeebles the mental powers. It is really a form of laziness, and it should be sternly corrected on the outset. The action of the mind should be kept under control. When the thoughts begin to wander it is time to whip them into order. A resolute will will do it.

HOW SADDLEBACK LEDGE LIGHT WAS KEPT BURNING.

This is one of the wildest and bleakest of light-stations of that savage region, and, according to a story told there, it was once the scene of a remarkable plucky adherence to duty on the part of a fifteen-year-old boy. He was the son of the keeper, and on this occasion was left alone in the tower while the father went ashore for provisions in their only boat. Before the latter could return, a violent storm arose, and for the next three weeks there was no time in which the keeper's boat could have lived for a moment in the wild seas that raged about the lonely rock. Still the light was kept burning by that fifteen-year-old boy, who had little to eat and but scant time to sleep. Night after night, for three weeks, its steady gleam shone through the blackness of the pitiless storm and gladdened the father's straining eyes. When the ordeal was ended the boy was so weak from exhaustion as to be barely able to speak. At the same time there was no prouder father, nor happier young light-keeper on the Maine coast than those who met on the storm-swept ledge of Saddleback that day.—Kirk Munroe.

THE WORLD'S NEWSPAPERS.

How important a power in civilization is the newspaper appears from the result of a recent computation made by an investigating publisher as to the world's supply of journals. After a canvass of the leading nations of the world, it is figured that the total number of newspapers printed in a single year is 12,000,000,000. Some idea of what this enormous figure means may be had if one bears in mind that to print the world's newspapers a year requires \$81,240 tons of paper, or 1,662,480,000 pounds, while it would take the fastest press in America three hundred and thirty-three years to print a single year's edition, which would

produce a stack of papers nearly fifty miles high. We must not forget that countries like China, which some people glibly call "heathen," are voracious consumers of newspapers, the oldest as well as the heaviest circulated paper in the world being published in Peking. Those who speak of the newspapers as "a great power" scarcely realize the size of the truth they are uttering.—Boston Globe.

YOU MUST MEAN IT.

When you say, "Lead us not into temptation," you must in good earnest mean to avoid, in your daily conduct, those temptations from which you have already suffered. When you say, "Deliver us from evil," you must mean to struggle against that evil in your hearts of which you are conscious, and which you pray to have been forgiven. To watch and pray are surely in our power, and by these means we are certain of getting strength. You feel your weakness; you fear to be overcome by temptation; then keep out of the way of it. This is watching. Avoid society which is likely to mislead you; flee from the shadow of evil; you cannot be too careful; better be a little too strict than a little too easy—it is the safer side. Abstain from reading books which are dangerous to you. Turn from bad thoughts when they arise.—J. H. Newmau.

TRIALS SHOULD BE WELCOMED.

God will give us an opportunity to try our consecration, whether it be a true one or not. No man can be wholly the Lord's unless he is wholly consecrated to the Lord; and no man can know whether he is wholly thus consecrated except by tribulation. That is the test. To rejoice in God's will, when that will imparts nothing but happiness, is easy even for the natural man. But none but the renovated man, none but the religious man, can rejoice in the divine will when it crosses his path, disappoints his expectations and overwhelms him with sorrow. Trial, therefore, instead of being shunned, should be welcomed as the test—the only true test of our true state. Beloved souls, there are consolations which pass away, but true and abiding consolation ye will not find except in entire abandonment, and in that love which loves the cross. He who does not welcome the cross does not welcome God.

EXCUSE FOR SIN.

How few frankly and honestly confess their own sin! They see not their guilt. They are continually making excuses for their crimes; the strength and subtlety of the tempter, the natural weakness of their own minds, the unfavorable circumstances in which they were placed are all plead as excuses for their sins, and thus the possibility of repentance is precluded, for until a man take his sin to himself, till he acknowledges that he alone is guilty, he cannot be humbled, and consequently cannot be saved.

Reader, till thou accuse thyself, and thyself only, and feel that thou alone art responsible for all thy iniquities, there is no hope of thy salvation.

SECRET PRAYER.

The highest act of prayer is impossible unless and until the human suppliant deliberately seeks to meet God absolutely alone. To secure such aloneness with God we are bidden to "enter into the closet," to find some place and time where we may shut ourselves in with him. This is so important that it is made emphatic by repeating the thought in another form, as though the word "closet" were not enough, Christ adds, "and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father, which is in secret"—a second word, meaning essentially the same as closet, a secret place (Matt. 6:6).—A. T. Pierson, D.D.

COUNT YOUR MERCIES.

That it is really "a good thing to give thanks" every one may discover for himself by making the experiment. Many a cloud has been driven from the spiritual and mental sky by a breath of praise. It is not a good thing to count over our sorrows and losses and perplexities; as a rule, we make them worse by doing so; but the counting of our mercies has an invigorating effect, and we are often surprised to find how much richer we are than we had thought.—Christian Advocate.

TRYING ORDEALS FOR WOMEN.

Mrs. Pinkham Tells How Women May Avoid Painful Examinations.

To a modest, sensitive, high-strung young woman, especially an unmarried woman, there is no more trying or painful ordeal than the "examinations," which are now so common in hospitals and private practice.

An examination by speculum, or otherwise, is sometimes a positive necessity in certain stages of many diseases peculiar to women, so at least it is declared by the profession. This would not be the case if patients heeded their symptoms in time.

If a young girl's blood is watery, her skin pale and waxy looking, her lips colorless, bowels torpid, digestion poor, her ears and temples throb and she is subject to headache, begin at once to build up her system with Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Do not allow her to undergo a physical examination.

Here is a letter from a young lady who requests that her name should not be used, but gives her initials and street number so that any inquiry addressed to her will be received. She says:

"Dear Mrs. Pinkham:—It affords me great pleasure to be able to say a few words in regard to the merits of your Vegetable Compound. I was tempted to try it after seeing the effects of it upon my mother, and now I feel like a new person. I am a stenographer and was troubled with falling of the womb and female weakness in general. I continued to work until I was so weak I could no longer walk, and the last day I was forced to stop and rest.

"I was then so ill that I was compelled to stay in bed, and so nervous that I could not hold anything in my hands. The least noise or surprise would cause my heart to beat so loudly, and I would become so weak that I could hardly stand. I suffered for almost a year. It is different now. I can go about my work with pleasure, while before, work was a drudge.

"Trusting that my words of praise may help some other afflicted person, and be of benefit to womankind in general, I remain, Yours in gratitude, L. H., 444 S. East St., Indianapolis, Ind."



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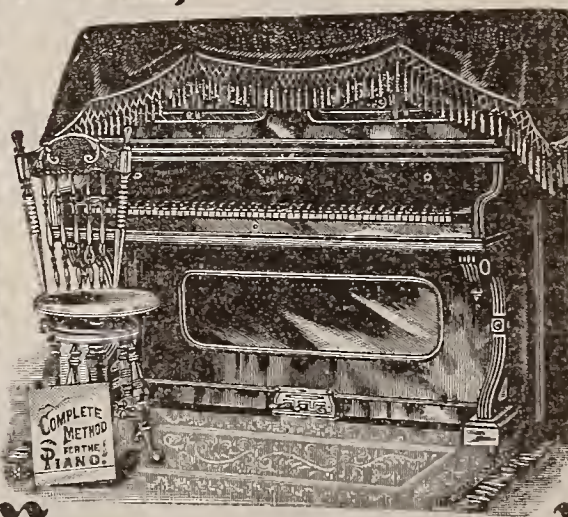
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Smiles.

A DAWSON CITY IDYL.

A Dawson City mining man lay dying on the ice.

He didn't have a woman nurse—he didn't have the price; But a comrade knelt beside him, as the sun sank in repose, To listen to his dying words and watch him while he froze.

The dying man propped up his head above four rods of snow, And said, "I never saw it thaw at ninety-eight below;

Send this little pinhead nugget, that I swiped from Jason Dills, To my home, you know, at Deadwood, at Deadwood in the hills.

"Tell my friends and tell my en'mies, if you ever reach the East, That this Dawson City region is no place for man or beast;

That the land's too elevated and the wind too awful cold, And the hills of South Dakota yield as good a grade of gold;

Tell my sweetheart not to worry with a sorrow too intense, For I'm going to a warmer and a far more cheery hence.

Oh, the air is growing thicker, and those breezes give me chills, Gee, I wish I was in Deadwood, in Deadwood in the hills.

"Tell the fellows in the home-land to remain and have a cinch, That the price of patent pork-chops here is eighty cents an inch.

That I speak as one who's been here scratching 'round to find the gold, And at ten per cent of discount I could not buy up a cold.

Now, so long," he faintly whispered, "I have told you what to do." And he closed his weary eyelids and froze solid p. d. q.

His friends procured an organ box and c. o. d'd the bills, And sent the miner home that night to Deadwood in the hills.

—Deadwood Pioneer.

MEMORIES OF 1893.

THIS broad expanse of ground in front of the place where we are now standing was the site of the great Manufacturers building. You remember it?"

"Very well."

"No one ever could forget that colossal structure. Rising to a height of more than 200 feet, massive yet graceful, it commanded a magnificent view, and was itself visible from every point of the spacious grounds. Its tremendous arches upheld a roof such as no man ever saw before. Classic in style, wonderful in its simple grandeur, its effect upon the senses was overpowering. The eye refused to take note of measurements. It was content with simply gazing. Human achievement possibly may duplicate that building in the years to come, but this will remain in the memory for all time as the great original. Nor can those who were privileged to wander through its broad aisles in 1893 ever forget the marvelous exhibits it contained. The concrete evidence of a world's progress was there displayed. It was an epitome of civilization. Merely to take note of the treasures of art and science there spread before the eye of mankind required months. The great building has gone, but its memories abide. The flames that roared through those stupendous arches could only destroy the material, tangible part of—"

"By the way, while I think of it, were the claims of those French exhibitors ever paid?"

—Chicago Tribune.

A GREAT OBSTACLE.

"It will never do to let woman have equal suffrage."

"Any special reason?"

"Yes. Just think how silly it would sound to have to call our battleships 'women-of-war.'"—Detroit Free Press.

THE CHEERFUL IDIOT.

"Did you ever hear the story about the cause of the extreme paucity of the rabbit's tail?" asked the typewriter boarder, who has been taking folk-lore lectures.

"Before we proceed," said the cheerful idiot, "is this a tale of hare, a tale of hare, a tale of hare, or a tale of hair?"—Indianapolis Journal.

Too FAT?—No one but a physician knows how sincerely persons who are corpulent deplore the fact that they are so. Fat when excessive adds greatly to one's discomfort. It destroys female beauty and makes a well-proportioned man out of shape. Hall Chemical Co., B. Box, of St. Louis, Mo., whose ad. appears in this issue, are having wonderful success in treating obesity. If you are too fat write them for free sample, etc.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

"How can I get an article in your paper?" asked a correspondent of a Western journal. "It all depends on the article you want to get into our paper," replied the editor. "If the article is small in bulk, like a hair-brush or tea-caddy, spread the paper out upon the floor, and placing the article in the center, wrap it up by carefully folding the edges over it, and tie with a string. This will keep the article from slipping out of the paper. If, on the other hand, the article is an English bathtub or a clothes-horse, you would better not try it at all."—Harper's Bazar.

ENFORCED.

Mrs. Beacon Hill (to her nephew, who has just returned from a visit to New York)—"And, Browning, did you always remember to keep the Sabbath day holy while you were away?"

Browning (guiltily)—"No, auntie, I did not. But it was not my fault."

Mrs. Beacon Hill (shocked)—"Not your fault?"

Browning—"No; Aunt Kate never had baked beans and brown bread Sunday morning, and I had no money to buy them myself."—Puck.

GENEROUS OFFER.

Wandering vaguely and uncertainly about the streets one evening, Mr. Rambo accidentally dropped into a meeting of single-taxers.

He listened to the speeches for half an hour with all the attention he could bring to bear upon the subject, and then became tired.

"Misser Shairman," he said, rising up and running his hand in his trousers pocket, "whatsh th' amount of th' shingle tacksh? I'll pay it m'shelf!"—Chicago Tribune.

GROWN-UP WOMEN.

"Clara," said the mother of a little five-year-old miss, who was entertaining a couple of neighboring girls of her own age, "why don't you play something instead of sitting still and looking miserable?"

"Why, mamma, we is playin'," was the reply; "we's playin' that we's grown-up womens."—Chicago Daily News.

ADVANTAGE.

Benedict—"It was a mighty good thing for Jonah that he didn't live in the nineteenth century."

Bachelor—"Why?"

Benedict—"Because no modern wife would have accepted that whale story as an excuse for staying away from home three days and nights."—New York World.

ROCK-RIBBED RELIGION.

"Brother Haicede," said the minister, "I am surprised to hear that you whipped your son for saying that he didn't believe in the weather predictions of the almanac."

"By the time you have lived as long as I have," responded Mr. Haicede, "you'll know that the time to nip infidelity is in the bud."

HARD ON THE ENCYCLOPEDIA.

"Papa," said little Bennie Bloobumper, "what is an encyclopedia?"

"An encyclopedia, Benny," replied that small boy's intelligent papa, "is a set of books, any volume of which will tell you to seek elsewhere for the information you want."

A READJUSTMENT.

"But, Fred, are you really running behind so much?"

"Well, I keep my clothes in the drawer of my desk, and my unpaid bills in the wardrobe."—Life.

EXPLAINED.

"What is meant by the saying that speech is silver and silence is golden?"

"It costs more to make a man keep still than to make him talk."—Life.

QUEER.

One of the strangest things about the female character is the tendency which the prettiest girls always have to fall in love with our inferiors.—Puck.

DARK CIRCLES AROUND THE EYES.

I send FREE a simple cure for this trouble so annoying to women. Whether from ill-health, over-work or any weakness, it can be cured. Address Mrs. L. B. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.

NO WONDER.

Dr. Thirdly—"Now, for example, take the life of your neighbor."

Smith—"I wish I could. He's learning to play the cornet."

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SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., Chicago. Dear Sirs:—It is just about one year ago when I first commenced using your "5 DROPS" for Nervous Rheumatism, Catarrh in the head and Bronchitis. I was so bad that I could not eat at all, in bed or anywhere else; my Nerves were all in a quiver, and my Liver and Kidneys were all out of order; in fact, I was so bad that I had to raise up in bed from five to twelve times in one night to get my breath and to keep from choking, but to-day I am heartier and in better health than I have been for the past fifty years. Others are using it here with wonderful results and still more calling for it.

Yours truly,

GEORGE YEAGER, Portland, Ind., Feb. 17, 1898.

IT IS THE BEST RHEUMATIC MEDICINE ON EARTH

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., Chicago. Gentlemen:—I received the order all right, for which I send thanks. I am still taking the "5 DROPS," and am gaining every day—haven't felt so well for ten years. I have used all kinds of medicine, but have never found anything that has done me what "5 DROPS" has. Our stage-driver brings my medicine to me from Sharon, and he brings it very carefully, for he thinks there is no medicine on earth like "5 DROPS." He is using it for Rheumatism; he has only used it for three weeks and it has done wonders for him. He couldn't harness his horses without sitting down a number of times, and it has stopped all the pain in his limbs.

MRS. GEO. H. ROWELL, Strafford, Vermont, Feb. 18, 1898.

"5 DROPS" cures Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Hay Fever, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Earache, Toothache, Heart Weakness, Croup, Swelling, La Grippe, Malaria, Creeping Numbness.

FOR THIRTY DAYS LONGER to enable sufferers to give "5 DROPS" at least a trial, we will send a sample bottle, prepaid by mail, for 25 cents. A sample bottle will convince you. Also, large bottles (300 doses) \$1.00, 3 bottles for \$2.50. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

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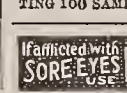
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Our Miscellany.

BOBBIE—"As I understand it, the foolish maidens who had no oil in their lamps could not get in?"

Teacher—"Precisely."

Bobbie—"And nowadays the foolish maidens who have no oil in their hike lamps get pulled in."—Yonkers Statesman.

A DENVER girl the other day kidnapped a man, and in spite of his protestations marched him away to the depot, where she bought two tickets with money she had stolen from her brother. The couple were married, and after the money was all gone the man managed to escape.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE Grosvenor family (Dukes of Westminster) trace their pedigree in England back to 1066, having come over with William the Conqueror, while the family in Normandy from which they are directly descended flourished there for at least a century and a half before the conquest, so that the family pedigree goes back to close upon a thousand years. The most ancient family in Great Britain is that of the Earl of Mar, in Scotland. Lord Hailes, speaking of the title, says: "It existed before our records and before the era of genuine history, being an earldom whose origin is lost in antiquity." The Campbells, to whom belongs the present Duke of Argyll, began in 1190. Of the 400 barons in the British peerage only about a dozen actually date back 600 years. The most ancient family in the world is that of the Mikado of Japan, which has had an unbroken line of descent for more than 2,500 years, the present ruler being the 122d of the line.—Chicago Tribune.

NO MAP OF THE UNITED STATES.

"The school children of the Bermudas know nothing of American history," says a New York woman who has just returned from Hamilton. "One day I stopped and talked with a bright little colored boy on the street. The Bermuda negro, you know, is superior in intelligence to the Southern negro of this country. He has neither the thick lips nor the flat nose of our American negro. His superiority is accounted for by the fact that he has in his veins the blood of the Indians captured in King Philip's war and taken as slaves to the Bermudas.

"Do you go to school?" I asked the boy.

"Yes'm."

"Who owns these islands?"

"England."

"Who rules England?"

"Queen Victoria."

"Where are the United States?"

"South of Canada."

"And do you know who is president of the United States?"

"Yes'm; George Washington."

"When I had visited one of the little schools at Hamilton I did not wonder that Washington was the only American president the boy had heard of. On the walls were maps of every important country in the world but our own, and I found that the teachers said as little of the United States as they could."—New York Sun.

HE WENT THEM ONE BETTER.

A little boy from California, who has been about a great deal, spent the holidays with his Washington cousins. He has enjoyed the sights of the capital, but he hasn't permitted himself to be in the slightest degree overawed by anything he has seen. His cousin took him—"carried" him, they said of it themselves—to the National Museum one day, and called his attention to a great log of petrified wood lying just outside the door. The little Californian had been a little depressed, but he brightened up at the sight.

"I've seen a whole tree like that," he said.

The Washington cousins maintained their composure.

"We've got a whole forest of trees like that out West," went on the young Westerner. Still the Washingtonians were not at all impressed. The California boy drew a long breath.

"We've got a whole woods of putrefied trees," he said; "yes, and they're putrefied birds sitting on 'em, and—and," with one last effort to disturb the calm, self-satisfaction of his companions, "they're singing putrefied songs, too."—Washington Post.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

"In four hours' work to-day," writes Mrs. Fan Stevens, Paw Paw, Mich., "I got nine orders for 'American Women' with WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION. It is a most beautiful and very valuable book, and my first order will be pretty large. Will send for books in four or five days."

SMELLING CONTESTS AS SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

At the closing party of the Colonial Whist Club on Wednesday evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Fred R. Loydon, on May street, one of the features introduced in the way of entertainment after the playing made a good deal of amusement.

Twelve miniature vials were filled with liquids of uniform red color, but all of different odors. The test was for each guest to name the several odors and write their names on a card. The odors chosen were familiar, such as witch-hazel, cologne, wintergreen, pennyroyal, rose, lemon, etc., and it would be supposed that there would be little or no difficulty in identifying them, but it was not so easy after all, for the reason that the stronger odors seemed to dull the sense of smell as to the more delicate ones.

Some of the mistakes were very amusing. The highest score, eleven out of the twelve, was made by one of the gentlemen, and, as a rule, the scores by the gentlemen were rather better than those of the ladies. A curious fact was that a vial containing a liquid without any odor whatever was wrongly guessed by all the ladies, and was identified as water by only two of the party, both gentlemen.—Hartford Times.

RAYMOND "MATCHED" BETWEEN THE LINES.

"The late John T. Raymond carried his love of matching dollars so far that he once actually made a bet while performing his role in a theater here in Washington," remarked Mr. William St. John, the well-known New Yorker.

"I happened to have a seat in the front row that night, and as soon as Raymond came on he spied me and nodded. That very afternoon he and I had been matching, and he came out second best. He hadn't been speaking a great while, when, half turning to me and pulling out a silver dollar to my utter amazement, he said very distinctly:

"'Heads or tails, Saint?' I caught on, and though I thought everybody in the house must be looking, put my finger to my head. 'All right, you win,' said Raymond, and immediately proceeded with his lines. It certainly was a funny thing, but the audience appeared to think it was regular, though perhaps some were puzzled at its irrelevancy. Raymond himself thought it the best joke of the season, and after adjournment of the audience another matching-engagement followed."—Washington Post.

RUPEES TRANSFORMED INTO NAILS.

Here is a case which we are assured actually occurred recently in a district in the Northwest provinces that shall be nameless. A certain government servant, by defrauding his government and the widow and orphan, managed to mass 12,000 rupees. This he packed in two boxes and consigned by railway to his home, marked as nails. The railway had got wind of the affair, opened the boxes and took out the rupees, putting in nails according to the label. The packages duly arrived at their destination.—Allahabad Pioneer.

A WONDERFUL CHURN.

I have been in the dairy business all my life, and have many times churned for an hour before butter would appear, so when I heard of a churn that would churn in a minute I concluded to try it. Every day for a week I used it, and not only could I churn in a minute, but I got more and better butter than with a common churn. This is very important information to butter makers. The churn works easily and will churn an ordinary churning in less than sixty seconds. I have sold two dozen of these churns in the past month. Every butter maker that has seen me churn in less than a minute bought one. You can obtain all desired information regarding the churn by addressing Mound City Churn Co., St. Louis, Mo., and they will give you prompt and courteous attention.

A DAIRYMAN.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. **NO-TO-BAC** removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket. **NO-TO-BAC** from **STERLING REMEDY CO.** Sold 400,000 cases cured. Buy your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

AMERICAN WOMEN

The very finest Parlor Book published for years at a price within the reach of ordinary homes, while its Literary and Reference Value can hardly be overstated. Edited by the lamented Frances E. Willard jointly with Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. Over 1,400 Half-tone Portraits and Magnificent Full-page Portrait Groupings. Send for our circular, "An Inkling of Its Contents," Specimen Illustrations and Full Particulars, FREE.

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Any intelligent man or woman who will follow the carefully prepared instructions for selling "American Women" can handle this book successfully. Those of bookish tastes and who feel at home among cultured people do extraordinarily well with it. Lady Agents like this book most thoroughly, and are realizing large incomes every week. Write immediately, stating book experience (if any), territory desired, etc.

Address MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, Springfield, Ohio.

RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The safest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MEGRIMME CO., South Bend Indiana.

SIX LOVELY ROSES FREE

To introduce our popular illustrated literary and family paper, **Good Literature**, into thousands of homes where it is not already taken, we make the following special and extraordinary offer: Upon receipt of only **Twenty-five Cents** we will send **Good Literature** for the **Remaining Nine Months of this Year** (April to December inclusive), and to each subscriber we will also send, **Free**, and **post-paid**, **Six Lovely Ever-Blooming Roses**, as follows:

Empress of China, a new hardy perpetual blooming climbing pink rose; blooms profusely from May to December; will make a growth of 10 to 15 feet the first year, and live through the coldest winters without protection; charming for walls, pillars and porches.

Inconstant Beauty, the rose of many colors; a single bush will bear at the same time flowers of various colors, including orange, yellow, pink, apricot and crimson.

Marion Dingle, the most magnificent dark crimson rose in existence; a profuse bloomer, and strong, vigorous grower; a very choice variety.

Empress Augusta Victoria, a charming new rose; color, creamy white; deliciously fragrant; pointed buds and full double flowers; free bloomer and healthy grower.

Sunset, a lovely rose, rich golden amber or old gold, tinged and shaded with ruddy copper, resembling the tints of a summer sunset; flowers large, full and deliciously perfumed.

Madame du Watteville, the tulip rose, creamy yellow, widely bordered with bright crimson; a hardy, vigorous grower and profuse bloomer. One of the most charming varieties.

Bear in mind that we offer, not one, but the entire list of six lovely ever-blooming tea roses described above, absolutely free, by mail post-paid, if you will send us twenty-five cents for **GOOD LITERATURE** for the remaining nine months of this year (April to December inclusive). You will get the full worth of your money in your subscription to the paper; the roses are an absolute gift. Remember that these are not cheap, common roses, such as you see advertised at low prices. They are the choicest and most famous varieties, and such as are sold at high prices by all the leading florists. The roses are grown especially for us by one of the largest and most reliable firms of rose growers in the United States. We shall send you strong, healthy, well-rooted plants, well packed, by mail, guaranteed to reach you in perfect condition, and to give absolute satisfaction. **GOOD LITERATURE** is a large and handsome illustrated literary and family paper, each issue comprising from 20 to 24 large 4-column pages, including a beautiful cover. It contains Serial and Short Stories by the most famous authors, poems, sketches, instructive miscellany, Household, Juvenile and Humorous Departments, etc. You will be delighted with it, and the six lovely roses are worth many times the price of subscription. **Perfect satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded.** This is a special offer by a well-known and reliable publishing house, established over twenty-two years; we refer to the Mercantile Agencies and to all leading newspapers as to our responsibility. Address: **F. M. LUPTON, Publisher, 23, 25 and 27 City Hall Place, New York.**

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Several hundred people can be taken to Klondike and return the same evening by our illustrated Klondike Lecture Entertainment Unit. \$15.00 to \$50.00 and more can be made every evening without previous experience. A Chance to Make a Fortune as every body is anxious to learn about the Alaskan Gold Fields. We furnish an intensely interesting lecture, illustrated with magnificent photographic views shown with powerful Magic Lantern. Large 14x21 Illustrated Advertising Posters, Admission Tickets and everything ready to start in a Big Money-Making business at once. Cut this ad out and send to us for full particulars. **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.**

\$5 2500 BICYCLES ON HAND.

THAT'S TOO MANY. We must close out our immense stock of 97 models, including nearly 100 different makes, at prices which will sell them now to make room for 98 stock. You can make big money helping us. Second hand wheels \$5.00 to \$20.00. New 97 models, \$15.00 to \$35.00. Agents wanted. Wheels shipped subject to full examination. Satisfaction guaranteed. Write for confidential offer to the old reliable Bicycle House. **BROWN-LEWIS CYCLE CO., Dept. (H) CHICAGO, ILL.**

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Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 11-2 dozen Packages of Blaine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required. **BLUINE CO., Box 114, CONCORD JUNCTION, MASS.**

WANTED AGENTS We are now making our arrangements with agents to sell our products—LUBRICATING OILS AND GREASES—to the farmers and threshers. We want a good man to represent us in every county. For particulars and terms address **LINCOLN OIL CO., Cleveland, Ohio.**

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WOMEN Make \$2 to \$10 a Day selling our Mackintosh Dress Skirts, new dress shields, etc. Cat. Free. Ladies' Supply Co., 3118 Forest Ave., Chicago

FREE

A NEW 300-SHOT

AIR-RIFLE

We here offer the new 1898 Globe Air-rifle, which has several important improvements, making it the best and most perfect Air-rifle ever invented. By special arrangements with the manufacturers we are enabled to offer it for very small clubs, compared to its cost and value.

Description

The Rifle is made of excellent material. It is 35 inches long, with nickel-plated barrel. It has a globe sight and wooden stock. It is so simply and strongly made that a bright boy can quickly take it all apart, clean, and put together again. It is a very hard shooter. It will carry a bullet over 500 feet, and is just the thing for killing rats, etc. It is easily and quickly loaded.

2 2 2

Shoots 300 Times

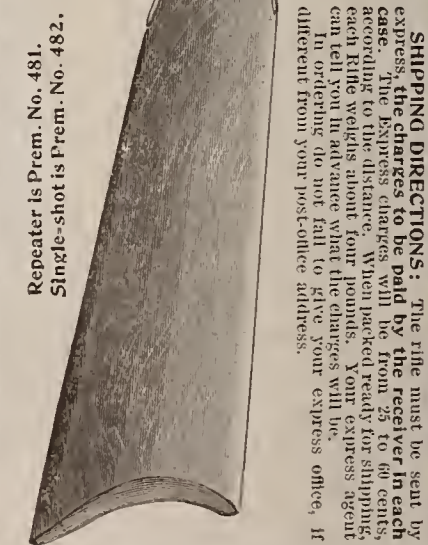
The ammunition-chamber in the Repeater holds over 300 bullets. The Repeater is operated by pressing down a spring after each shot. The ammunition is B. B. shot, which is for sale in stores everywhere. Ten cents will buy about 1,000 bullets. Owing to its accuracy, hard shooting and the cheapness of its ammunition, this new Globe Air-rifle is very popular alike with grown-up people and boys. By a little practice remarkable skill in marksmanship can be attained.

We guarantee each and every Rifle to be as described, and to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

ANY of our offers may be accepted by a subscriber and the name can be counted in a club. Both new and renewals may be counted in a club.

A club-raiser's outfit will be sent free to any one who wants to get up a club for Farm and Fireside.

Repeater is Prem. No. 481. Single-shot is Prem. No. 482.



Price of the Repeating Globe Air-rifle, and Farm and Fireside one year, \$2.00.

We will send the Repeating Globe Air-rifle free as a premium for a club of eight yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside; or for a club of six and 50 cents cash; or for a club of four and \$1 cash; or for a club of two and \$1.50 cash. (See shipping directions above.)

Price of the Single-shot Globe Air-rifle, and this paper one year, \$1.50.

We will send the Single-shot Globe Air-rifle free as a premium for a club of six yearly subscribers to Farm and Fireside; or for a club of four and 50 cents cash; or for a club of two and \$1 cash. (See shipping directions above.)

FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

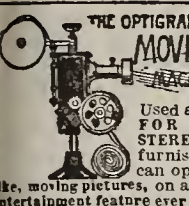
Beware the March Wind!

Escape the rigors of the winds this month by going South over the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. This line has a perfect through-car service from cities of the North to all Winter Resorts in Georgia, Florida, along the Gulf Coast, in Texas, Mexico and California.

The Florida Chautauqua now in session at DeFuniak Springs; six weeks with the best lecturers and entertainers, in a climate which is simply perfect. Very low rates for round trip tickets, on sale daily.


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Used as an attachment for magic lanterns, stereopticons, etc., or furnished complete. So simple a child can operate it. It projects life-size, life-like, moving pictures, on a white screen 10x14 feet. Greatest entertainment feature ever introduced. It is used in the best theaters in Chicago, New York and other large cities; never fails to draw large crowds; \$15.00 to \$50.00 and more can be made every night with this machine without previous experience. LECTURERS and MAGIC LANTERN EXHIBITORS can increase their earnings several times by the addition of this machine to their outfit; will fit any Magic Lantern or Stereopticon. It is the most perfect moving picture machine on the market and guaranteed to work equal to machines sold at \$200.00 or more. PRICE of Optigraph Machine only \$35.00. We can furnish the Optigraph machine with lamp house, slide holder, condensing lenses and burner complete to those who have no magic lantern for \$55.00. BEST QUALITY FILMS for moving picture machines, \$5.00 each. SEND AT ONCE FOR CATALOGUE OF MOVING PICTURE MACHINE, FILMS, ETC. and full particulars to SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC) CHICAGO.



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That's what you will say when you see this magnificent full engraved hunting case watch, fitted complete with high grade ELGIN Style movement absolutely guaranteed for 5 years.

Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay the express agent our special introductory price \$3.75 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want girl's or lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for sixty days only. Address
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WANTED NOW. AGENTS AT ONCE to sell Sash Locks and Door Holders. Sample Sash Lock free for 2-cent stamp. Immense; better than weights; burglar proof. \$10.00 a day. Write quick. Address **BROHARD & CO., Dept. 69, Philadelphia, Pa.**

AGENTS \$5 TO \$10 A DAY to introduce our pure "Asbestos" Wicks; last 8 to 10 years. Just "Asbestos" patented; gives light fully equal to **ELECTRICITY**. FIRE-PROOF SAFETY WICK WORKS, COLUMBUS, OHIO.

IMPROVED LAMP CHIMNEY BRUSH 14 inches long. Cleans in 5 seconds, polishes. Crowds in, fills space, polishes. Right. Sample 10c. 1 doz. 6c. postpaid. 3 doz. \$1.12 doz. \$3.60. exp. Agents make big pay. Ill. Cat. & Novels, Tricks, Wigs & Plays free. C. MARSHALL, Lockport, N.Y.

WANTED One reliable, shrewd person, either sex, in every town to make for himself hundreds of dollars every month, quietly and steadily without hard work. Enclose 2c. stamp for confidential instruction and desc. outfit. **F. H. THOMPSON, Times Bldg., Chicago.**

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696 New Sample styles of Envelope Silk Fringe CARDS, etc., 20 New Songs, 100 Rich and Racy Jokes, 1 pack Escort Cards, 1 pack Fun Cards, 1 pack Acquaintance Cards and Standard Beau Catcher. **ALL FOR TWO CENTS. CROWN CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.**

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CATALOGUE Rubber Goods of every kind free. **EDWIN MERCER & CO., Toledo, O.**

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

T. S. Hubbard & Co., Fredonia, N. Y. Price- list of grape-vines, small fruits, etc.

W. B. Longstreth, Gratiot, Ohio. Seed annual and bargain catalogue.

The Berger Manufacturing Co., Canton, Ohio. Handsome booklet—"Results of Spraying." How, when and where to spray.

Electric Wheel Co., Quincy, Ill. Illustrated catalogue explaining advantages of wide-tired metal wheels and low-down wagons.

James J. H. Gregory & Sons, Marblehead, Mass. Illustrated catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds.

Jno. D. Inlay, Zanesville, Ohio. Catalogue of a few choice seeds and plants worthy of general culture.

J. T. Thompson, Oneida, N. Y. The origina- tor's catalogue of the Columbian raspberry, and his method of growing it.

Stark Bros., Louisiana, Mo. "Stark Fruit Book." Fully illustrated with photo repro- ductions and beautiful colored plates.

John R. and Wm. Parry, Parry, N. J. Cat- alogue of the Pomona Nurseries, Specialty, Starrapple.

Norman Cole, Glen Falls, N. Y. Cole's new hybrid gladiolus.

A. Tilton & Son, Cleveland, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of choice seeds.

L. E. Archias & Bro., Carthage, Mo. Rural guide and catalogue of "seeds that grow."

Northrup, King & Co., Minneapolis, Minn. Good seeds at fair prices. Improved farm- seeds from the golden grain belt of the North- west.

J. Chas. McCullough, Cincinnati, Ohio. Illus- trated catalogue of seeds, bulbs, plants, imple- ments, etc.

H. F. Smith, Waterbury Center, Vt. Testi- monials and price-list of the Joseph potato.

Fred'k W. Kelsey, 150 Broadway, New York. Price-list of choice ornamental trees, shrubs, vines, roses, etc.

Green's Nursery Co., Rochester, N. Y. "Green's Fruit Instructor." Trees direct from grower to planter.

D. Hill, Dundee, Ill. Evergreens a specialty. Largest stock of hardy evergreens in the United States.

J. R. Brabazon, Jr., & Co., Delavan, Wis. New poultry-buyer's guide, illustrating many varieties of pure-bred poultry.

Wm. Henry Maule, Philadelphia. Maule's seed catalogue. One of the best catalogues ever published.

Geo. S. Josselyn, Fredonia, N. Y. Handsome catalogue of grape-vines and small fruits. Mr. Josselyn's specialty is growing fine grape- vines of the best varieties. He is now propa- gating and introducing Campbell's Early, the king of American grapes, illustrated in No- vember 1st, 1897, number of FARM AND FIRE- SIDE.

Keyser Manufacturing Co., Chattanooga, Tenn. Illustrated pamphlet describing the "Odorless" refrigerator.

THE BALDWIN MOTOR CAR FOR THE C. H. & D. TRACTION COMPANY.

The Baldwin motor car, built for the C. H. & D. Traction Company, by the Baldwin Loco- motive Company, of Philadelphia, will be put in operation between Middletown and Hamil- ton within a few days. It is expected that this car will show considerable economy on short distances, as against the expense of power houses and trolley lines.

The car is operated by steam, is only 32½ feet in length, and in this space there is room for the motor and baggage-room, and seats for twenty-four passengers. It is beautifully fur- nished on the inside; the passenger compart- ment is finished in quartered oak, transverse seats, aisle in the center; is heated by steam and well lighted. The windows are provided with silk spring-roller curtains; toilet-room at one end; safety-gates at the sides of back platform. The car, while the motive power is steam, is arranged in such a way that there is no steam exhaust; the steam being carried to a series of copper tubes, or condensers, and the consumption of fuel being very light, there is no nuisance from smoke. The car has been tested at a speed of 38 miles per hour, and oper- ates with less noise than ordinary electric or cable cars. The general plan of the machinery will make it superior for travel to the cable or electric cars, the motor being complete in itself, and from the data obtained so far it appears to be capable of being operated at a much smaller cost of operation than electric cars.

This car was built by the Baldwin people after examining the plans and specification of the Rowan Motor. The Rowan Motor is not capable of such high speed as the Baldwin Motor, but is and has been operated in the streets of Paris for a number of years; but the general plan of the car and its operation are somewhat smaller than the car adopted by the C. H. & D. people, the difference being in the higher quality of finish, smaller power in the machinery and the general superior character of the American machinists' work. The car will be put in daily operation between Middle- town and Hamilton, and it is expected, from the experience obtained in trying it between these points, that its introduction will be fol- lowed by a number of others, of smaller design, to be put in use on points along the line.

NATHAN KING, who is said to farm "in a scientific way," and is known as the "Butter King of Boone County," Missouri, has sold 4,000 pounds of butter so far this year, the product of the milk of twenty-four Jersey cows, and it is said that he has been able to get twenty-five cents a pound or better for all of it. He is not one of the complain- ing farmers.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure "Drunkennes or the Liquor Habit" with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.



AT ONE DOLLAR

Less than Regular Wholesale Price. To Reduce Our Enormous Stock. A rare chance to get a FIRST-CLASS WATCH at manufacturer's cost. The movement is made by one of the largest American manufacturers, finely jeweled, perfectly regulated, equal as time- keeper to the best made, and absolutely guaranteed for 5 years. The case is hunter or open face, made of solid gold, silver, or nickel. GOLD FILLED; 15 year guarantee with every watch. We can also give you a watch which LOOKS equally as well, with the same movement, at the price of \$3.65, but the case is NOT GOLD FILLED, but Electro gold plated, and it will not wear as long as the \$4.97 watch. We send you either watch on approval; you can examine it, and if you are perfectly satisfied pay the express agent our price, otherwise have it returned at our expense. Cut this out and state what kind of watch you want, the one for \$1.00 or the one for \$3.65, whichever you prefer. Give your full name and address and the nearest express office. If you send money with order we will send you a MAGNIFICENT CHAIN and CHARM, and guarantee absolute satisfaction. Order now, as this may not appear again.

T. FRETHER CO.,
293 West 22nd St.,
Dept. A. 14 CHICAGO.

IT IS WRONG TO SUFFER

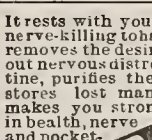
For ten years I suffered intense agony from a fall- ing of the womb trouble that more than \$1,000.00 spent with doctors and surgeons failed to cure. Two years ago a friend told me of the won- derful remedy that effected a complete and thorough cure. I have a number of samples of it which I want to distribute free among women who suffer as I did from diseases peculiar to our sex.

I will send a sample, free as the air you breathe, to any sufferer, as long as they last; but you will please remember that I have but a limited number. So please write at once.

Remember, I do not make the medicine or sell it, and it is only my desire that you may test, free of charge, the best medicine of its class in the world, and learn where to procure a remedy that will most certainly cure you.

I will send it in a plain, sealed package, secure from observation, and no one will ever learn of your having written for it. Strictly confidential.

Mrs. Ellen Worley, Box 666, Springfield, Ohio.




It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit, NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, with- out nervous distress, expels nicot- tine, purifies the blood, re- stores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book.

STOP CHEWING!

Sold, 400,000 cases cured. Buy your own druggist, who will vouch for its. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or your refund money.


Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.




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Learn to Hypnotize! You can control others and compel them to think, act and feel as you desire. Gratifies every wish. You can make others love and obey you. Produces fun by the hour. Cures diseases and bad habits. New and instantaneous method. Quickest and best on earth. I guarantee success. Mammoth illustrated LESSON and full particulars FREE! Send your address at once.

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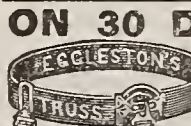
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About 3 years ago I bought one of your trusses. I wore it about 6 months and it has made a final cure. Was badly ruptured. I would have written to you about this before but wanted to see if my cure was permanent.

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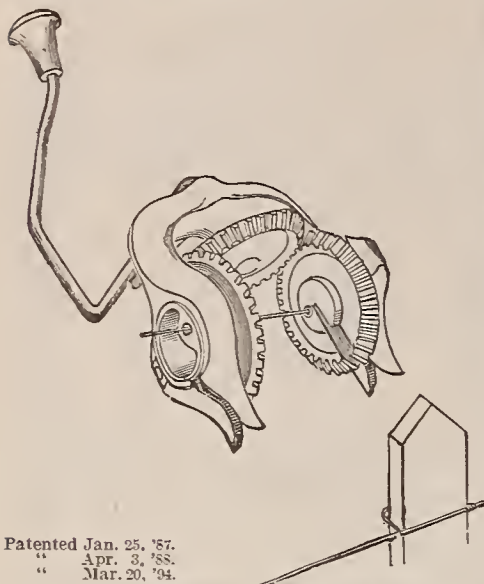
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Patented Jan. 25, '87.
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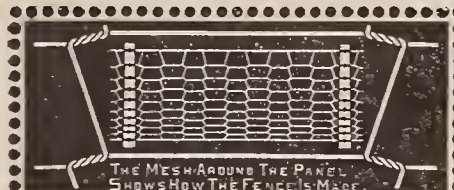
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Don't Buy a Gold Brick

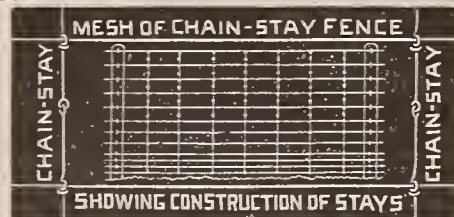
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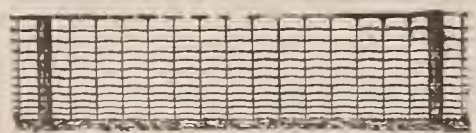
It is apt to leave its mark—on fences as well as other things. If the stays are of stiff, jointless wire they become bent, and stay bent. The only remedy is prevention, not cure, by the use of That Link. We own it. **CHAIN STAY FENCE CO., 30 Miller Street, STERLING, ILL.**



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WE SELL Buggy Tops at \$6.95, Wagon Umbrellas, \$1.50, Ironed Buggy Poles, painted, \$3.25, Ironed Buggy Shafts, painted, \$2.00, Ironed Neck yokes, each \$35c., Ironed Wagon Singletrees, 17c., 19c., and 27c., Ironed Wagon Eveners, each, 42c., Trimmings Buggy Neck yokes, 35c., Top Buggies, \$23.95 and up. Send for Free Catalogue. **BEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.**



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It will pay you to buy a Saw with "DISSTON" on it. It will hold the set longer, and do more work without filing than other saws, thereby saving in labor and cost of files. They are made of the best quality crucible cast steel, and are

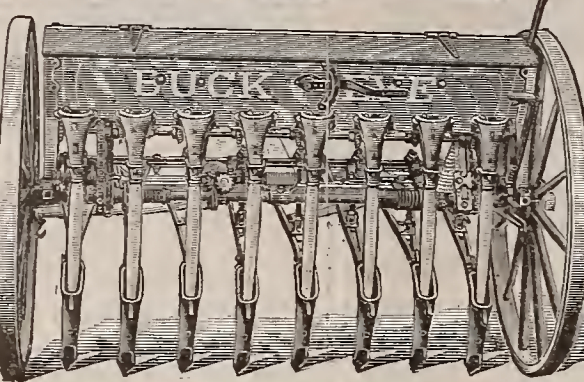
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The acids of the average fertilizer are very destructive to all metallic substances and cause corrosion and rust that soon eats out the feeding attachments. Glass is impervious to the action of moisture or acids of any kind. It endures—it lasts—it is always ready for use. You will find more about it in our catalog and circulars of our Buckeye Riding and Walking Cultivators, Buckeye Seeders, and other machines of merit. Send for them.

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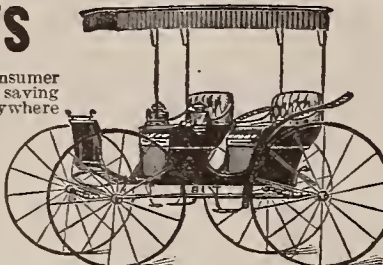


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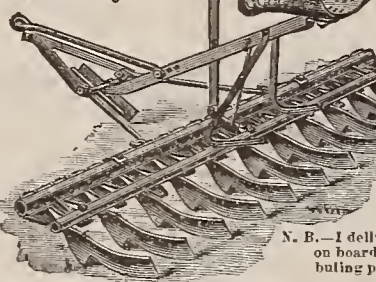
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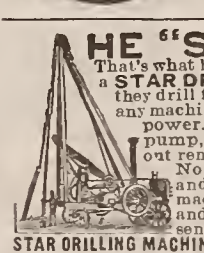


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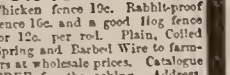
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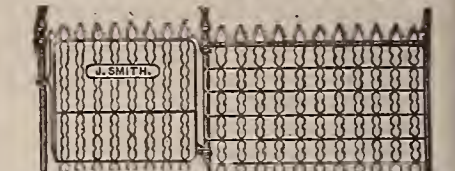
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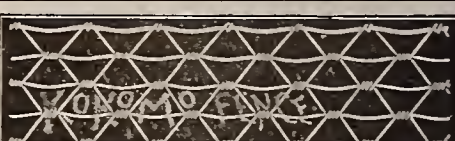
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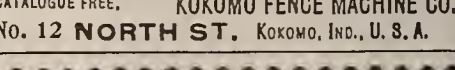
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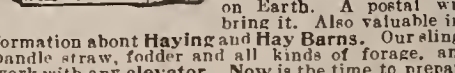
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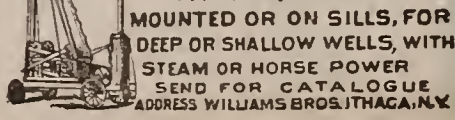
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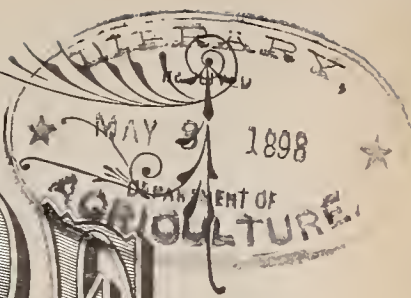


FARM & FIRESIDE



EASTERN EDITION.

Entered at the Post-office at Springfield, Ohio, as second-class mail matter.



Seed Division Department of Agriculture U.S.

VOL. XXI. NO. 14.

APRIL 15, 1898.

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24 NUMBERS.

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withdraw her land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

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Events are following events so rapidly now that action such as is involved in the foregoing resolution will, in all probability, be well under way before this reaches the reader. War is a terrible thing, but it is now the necessary and only means left to the United States to end the horrors of war in Cuba, establish peace and protect our own interests.

"If war come quickly," says a Washington press correspondent, "the United States will have the stupendous advantage of being able to whip the Spanish in detail. Having disposed of the dreaded torpedo-boats and the squadron now on its way, we should be ready for the next fleet that approached our coast. There is reassurance for the American people in the calm confidence of our board or strategy that if war comes the United States will easily vanquish the enemy. Against Spain's pitiful naval force now on this side of the Atlantic the United States has massed off Key West and the Tortugas, around Cuba and at Hampton Roads, the greatest fleet we have known since the Civil War, and immensely superior in actual effectiveness to any navy the United States ever possessed."

THE extent of our sugar importations is strikingly presented in the following comparison with the values of some of our staple exports: "It required the total amount of wheat and flour exported by the United States in 1896 to pay for the sugar imported that year. The total value of all live and dressed beef, beef products and lard exported during the past year barely equaled the amount paid for imported sugar. Our export trade in cotton—supplying the world—represents in value only twice as much as our imports of sugar. Our vast exports of tobacco must be trebled to counterbalance our sugar imports. Last year's exports of barley, oats, rye, fruits and nuts, hops, vegetable oils, oleomargarine, butter and cheese, pork and hams, all taken together, represent in value only two thirds of the sugar imported."

In 1897 the United States consumed, in round numbers, 4,000,000,000 pounds—two million tons—of sugar. Demand for this product of agriculture is increased annually by growth of population and by increase in consumption per capita. Briefly, this is the American market for sugar—the best in the world.

The American sugar industry has not only a great and growing market before it, but great room for expansion in producing what is imported from abroad and distributing the \$100,000,000 paid for it among the American people.

The home beet-sugar industry is making great progress. Secretary Wilson says: "Eleven factories are now in actual operation, some ten more contracted for and in course of actual construction, while the question of establishing thirty or forty more is being actively discussed in various sections. It will take about four hundred factories at an approximate valuation of \$500,000 to supply all the sugar consumed in the United States."

The Department of Agriculture has imported a quantity of choice sugar-beet seed for the experiments of 1898. This seed has been sent to various state experiment stations to be distributed to farmers who agree to prepare the soil, plant and cultivate the beets, harvest and weigh the crop, and send samples for analysis to the station. The experimental plots should contain at least one half acre. Progressive farmers are urged to co-operate in promoting this promising industry, by applying

for beet-seed and growing plots of beets this year. The crop will be worth more than it costs for feeding purposes, and much information can be gained by engaging in this experiment work. Let all those interested apply to the experiment station of their own state for bulletins giving full particulars of the plan.

FEW farmers realize the importance of preventing waste of the valuable elements of fertility in barnyard manures. The value of the fertility lost, priced at the cost of the same elements in commercial fertilizers, is enormous.

A recent bulletin of the Oklahoma experiment station says: "It is safe to say that at least seventy-five per cent of the fertilizing material contained in the feed is recovered in the manure. On this basis the manure obtained from feeding one ton of Alsike clover represents \$6.50, and that obtained from feeding one ton of wheat bran represents about \$6.75. It is highly probable that a farmer could not sell the manure at the prices here given, but it should be understood that if the farmer were compelled to replace these amounts of fertilizing material, by artificial fertilizers bought in the market, at market prices, it would cost him the values quoted. It may be observed that the greater part of the seventy-five per cent recovered may be lost by locating the manure pile on the bank of some convenient stream; a somewhat prevalent custom in various parts of the territory. It is not necessary to give a long list of the fertilizing values of the various crops produced, but it should be remembered that all manures have some value, and that a manure not saved is a fertilizer lost."

THE American Maize Propaganda, through its secretary, Mr. B. W. Snow, of Chicago, has issued the following statement to the corn-growers of America:

"The Corn Convention, which met in Chicago, February 16th, to consider the agricultural situation in general, and the interest of corn in particular, organized 'The American Maize Propaganda.' The central object of the organization is an international effort to permanently and legitimately advance the price of America's greatest crop by promoting a larger use of Indian corn at home and abroad. Coming changes in dietary habits of the world make the present an opportune time to advertise abroad the virtues and relative cheapness of corn as food. The officers of the Propaganda have already laid before Congress the necessity for making a comprehensive showing of corn and its products at the Paris exposition of 1900, in such a shape as to demonstrate practically its virtues as food. In order to secure this recognition for corn we must have the active backing of individual corn-growers. It proposes to follow up the beginning then made by a continued effort under private auspices.

"The organization also has a field for activity at home. It proposes to educate our own people to a better appreciation of our great crop. In addition, it will be alert to represent the interests of agriculture and corn in particular in matters of legislation, and in urging effective efforts on the part of the government to combat unjust restrictions upon American trade in any and all foreign countries. In such matters the pressure which such an organization can bring to bear through its local membership will be very great.

"The organization is in no sense a secret order, but a plain business proposition. In order to reach the highest possible efficiency in the work undertaken it is desired to have local branches established in every community where King Corn rules. No expense will attach to these local branches, but each one established will give strength to the central organization by enlisting the active sympathy of the corn-producers. It is desired to have local farmers' clubs of all kinds affiliate with us by constituting themselves a local branch, and where no organization now exists individual farmers are asked to unite in forming such a local branch.

"I desire to urge upon corn-growers the necessity of aiding in this business effort for the general good of all, and I will be pleased to furnish necessary blanks and information to any who desire to enter actively in the work by organizing local branches."

WITH THE VANGUARD

AT this writing all efforts through diplomacy on the part of the United States to secure the independence of Cuba and preserve honorable peace with Spain have failed, and war seems inevitable. It will forever stand in history to the credit of the United States that our government exhausted all means consistent with the honor and dignity of a great nation to avert war. Having done so, no question can ever be raised against our right and duty on the high ground of civilization and humanity to free Cuba from Spanish dominion and oppression by force of arms. Intervention by force is more than justified by the horribly barbarous methods of warfare Spain has used against her own colonists. The fact that "while our ship Maine was at anchor in the harbor of Havana, within the dominion and under the control of the kingdom of Spain, at a place designated by her authority, that ship and most of the men on board, in the service of their country, by the explosion of a submarine mine, were wilfully, wickedly and treacherously mangled and destroyed," leaves our government hardly any other possible recourse than war.

March 29th, four United States Senators offered strong resolutions on the Cuban question. The ground of all four is very well covered by the concise one presented by the senior Senator from Ohio, which reads as follows:

"Be it resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America:

"First—That the people of the island of Cuba are and of a right ought to be free and independent.

"Second—That the Government of the United States recognizes the republic of Cuba as the true and lawful government of that island.

"Third—That the war Spain is waging against Cuba is so destructive of the commercial and property interests of the United States, and so cruel, barbarous and inhuman in its character as to make it the duty of the United States to demand, and the Government of the United States hereby does demand, that she at once

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Vivisection. While I have an uncontrollable horror of the surgeon's knife, I can kill animals or operate on them if I have to. But I always try to do such jobs as decently as possible. There is enough suffering on earth already without our adding to it wantonly. The chief fault I find with physicians as a class is that their sensibilities are often thoroughly deadened or blunted. In a measure this may be necessary. But it is not necessary that they should rather like the idea of making people suffer pain, and even laugh and glory over it. I believe that these experiments on living animals, as practised in colleges and the private rooms of medical students, are schools which develop unfeeling, unsympathetic physicians, and in their last consequences tend to increase human suffering to a great extent. Even if legislators have no heart or pity for the poor animals that fall into the hands of these unfeeling wretches, and are suffering untold agonies under the experimenting student's knife and often clumsy fingers, for hours and days at a time, they should put restrictions and decent safeguards around the practice of vivisection for the sake of protecting poor humanity from the careless indifference of brutalized disciples of Esculap. Vivisection is entirely unnecessary and worthless as a means of training for medical students. Why allow it? The New York "Farmer" speaks thus of the infamous practice of vivisection: "This horrible business of cutting animals to pieces without the formality of first killing them. Its practice inevitably degrades and brutalizes every one connected with it, and it has never accomplished any good."

* * *

Liver of Sulphur The New York experiment station has just issued a pamphlet on "the best remedy for gooseberry-mildew." My best remedy for this dread disease is the planting of varieties which are practically, if not absolutely mildew-proof, especially the excellent Columbus and probably the Chautauqua. Still, we have many other good and useful varieties, and I confess that I like the rich flavor of some of the purely English sorts, especially one of the yellow kinds (Golden Prolific). In

many cases it may be advisable to use a remedy that is as cheap and as efficient as liver of sulphur, recommended as the best remedy by the writer of the mentioned bulletin. He says: "The plants treated very early with potassium sulphid yielded more fruit than did others, and the percentage of mildewed fruit was so much smaller that the amount of marketable fruit was much greater. . . . The expense of the treatment is but small; for the potassium sulphid necessary to spray one bush seven times with the weak solution which gave the best results would cost only one fifth of a cent. The solution can be easily applied with a bucket-pump. . . . Potassium sulphid is the most effective remedy for controlling gooseberry-mildew. It should be applied very early in the season, just as the buds are swelling, at the rate of one ounce in two or three gallons of water, and the treatment repeated every ten days or two weeks." We have a new pattern sprayer, and of course use that in spraying all garden crops and small-fruit plantations, even very small trees. But any kind of pump will do for spraying currants and gooseberries.

* * *

Milk-fever. About a year ago I reported in these columns that we had in this vicinity frequent cases of milk-fever, or "parturient apoplexy," a disease which attacks the best milkers and cows in good physical condition. The New Jersey experiment station publishes a timely bulletin on this and other cattle diseases. My cows are extra milkers, and are being always highly fed and in fine order, and for that reason I am always a little afraid of this trouble, which comes like a thief in the night and often when you least expect it. You may be sure I looked the bulletin over pretty closely. So far as I understand the disease, I believe that the main point is to keep the cows' bowels rather loose during the last few weeks before and at time of calving. I accomplish that in the easiest and most natural manner by feeding linseed-oil meal in the ration, increasing the allowance of it as may seem required, and also by giving generous quantities of roots, potatoes or apples. The bulletin says about treatment and prevention: "Of this disease it may truthfully be said that an ounce of prevention is worth forty pounds of effort to cure. Seventeen cattle-owners recorded their methods of treatment, which have proved eminently successful. Treatment should begin a week or two before the calf is expected, and should be practised on every cow whose condition is such as to lead the owner to fear the occurrence of milk-fever when she calves. The treatment is to continue for a week after calving. Begin giving short rations, feed sparingly of rich food, such as grains and clover; rather give apples and bran mash. Give salt to provoke thirst, and encourage the cow to drink by warming the water if it is cold. Large doses of epsom salts, a pound to the quart of water, may be given once or even twice a week, to provoke an unwonted activity of the bowels and to counteract the tendency to constipation. If the udder is distended, it should be rubbed and milked regularly. The cow should be kept in a place which is dry, clean, airy and cool (in summer) or warm (in winter), and away from the other animals. Should the owner fear that his method has not succeeded in reducing the blood sufficiently, as may happen when the time is short, a veterinarian should be called to let out several quarts of blood from the jugular vein of the neck. Just before calving, the vagina should be washed out with a generous injection of a two-per-cent creolin solution, which should be repeated daily after calving for a few days. Immediately after the calving is completed, the veterinarian should inject creolin solution into the uterus, as in cases of abortion. Neither carbolic acid nor corrosive sublimate nor iodoform can be recommended for disinfecting the genital passages, but these disinfectants and others may be used liberally upon the soiled bedding and barn floor, etc. If a cow shows symptoms of milk-fever, a veterinarian should be called at once. He will determine from the symptoms whether it is advisable to bleed or not, to apply the wet-pack or not, to administer medicines through the mouth or by injection, and what medicines had best be given. If the cow is down, she should be propped up on the brisket to prevent the running of food into the lungs from the stomach."

The bulletin also speaks of more than fifty drugs that have been used to combat this disease. I do not think it will be necessary to keep more than a very few of the simplest on hand. I prefer to depend on sanitary feeding, especially the use of oil-meal and succulents to keep the alimentary canals open.

* * *

Pea-trellis. Have just been putting up some wire poultry-netting for a pea-trellis. It is fifty per cent better for this purpose than sticks or brush, and you don't have to pull it up and bury it every summer. Set or drive good strong stakes six or eight feet apart along the space where you want your pea-rows. Have them project about three feet above the ground and to them fasten the netting, drawing it smooth and straight as you fasten it. Four-foot netting is better than three if you grow the tall sorts. Sow your early peas about six inches from the south or east side of the trellis and the late varieties six inches from the north or west side. As they grow draw the earth against them and incline them toward the trellis. Set some tomato-plants in four-inch pots and plunge them in the ground. Soon as your early peas are done, remove the vines and set the tomato-plants, with ball of earth attached, six feet apart along the trellis. When the early peas are gone, remove the vines and as your tomatoes grow, tie them to the trellis. You will thus get more off this little strip than any other of equal size in the garden.

* * *

Tying Halter-straps. Time is a great item, and its economy can be exercised even in the tying of a halter rope or strap. Double the rope or strap into a loop; poke the outer end of the loop through the hole in the hitching-rack, then bring the end of the rope or strap over and stick the said end through the loop on the opposite side of the rack from where the animal stands. Give the rope or strap a pull, and the tying is secure and has been quickly done, and can be easily undone. T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Pasturing Too Early. Farmers who are short of feed are apt to be in a great hurry to get their stock on the pastures, and as soon as there is a half bite of grass cattle and horses are turned out. In this way hundreds of pastures are ruined for the season. A great many farmers are well aware that it is ruinous to a pasture to put stock on it too early; but there are hundreds who never have given the matter a thought, and hundreds more who are so anxious to utilize everything in sight that they forget the future, and these are the fellows who are loudest in their complaints about short pastures along in July.

It pays far better to buy a little feed, if you have run short, than to put the stock out before the grass has obtained a fair start. Then don't pasture the grass to death by putting on twice as much stock as it will support, and you will have plenty of feed until you have a soiling-crop to supplement it with.

* * *

Soiling-crops. I am well satisfied that it will pay any farmer well to grow a soiling-crop of some sort, and among the best of these is Evergreen sweet corn. It is a late, strong-growing sort, and may be drilled in rows two or two and one half feet apart, and it will furnish an immense quantity of forage. Some farmers grow sorghum as a forage-plant, but it is so slow to start that I prefer sweet corn. The only advantage sweet corn possesses over common dent corn as a soiling-crop is in the stalks being sweeter, and stock will generally eat every part of it.

If the summer should be droughty, pastures are certain to be cut short if stocked anywhere near their limit, then the farmer who has an acre or two of luxuriant sweet corn, or even dent corn, to fill his stock from every morning, has nothing to grumble about, and he will not have to feed out what he has stored away for winter, nor will his stock have to almost grub out the grass-roots to live.

* * *

Last year a farmer of my acquaintance told me that he had decided to grow an acre of corn, drilled in rather thickly, to help out his pastures in the late summer.

About the middle of summer I asked him where he had planted his soiling-corn, as I could see nothing of it.

"Oh," said he, "it's in the back end of the field yonder. There is a little swale back there where the land is kind o' thin. It was too wet to plant when I planted the other corn, so I let it dry out and then planted it."

"How high is the corn?" I asked.
"About a foot. Don't think it will amount to much. Planted it 'cause you said it was a good idea, but I think you're off there!"

When his pasture dried up, the grass all gone and his cows were almost rooting for a living, his soiling-crop was thin weak stuff not more than twenty inches high, and not worth cutting. Besides, it was a full quarter of a mile from the pasture. No wonder it was, as he termed it, "a fizzle!"

* * *

Another farmer I know last year planted one and one half acres to Evergreen sweet corn to help out his pastures. It was drilled in rich soil, right alongside of the pasture and naturally made a strong, vigorous growth, and when feed began to get a little short in his pasture, this corn was nearly full grown and he had an abundance of feed until the end of October. The corn being close by the pasture, all he had to do was cut it and throw it over the fence. His stock eat almost every particle of the stalks.

He declares that it was one of the best experiments he ever made, and that hereafter he will never fail to drill an acre or so of corn for a soiling-crop. He has manured the same tract heavily, will plow it after his corn crop is in and then drill in the sweet corn. Plowing it late will destroy all grass and clover scattered among the manure and also all of the first crops of weeds, and the ground will remain clean until the corn is high enough to run the cultivator among it as fast as the horses can walk. The rows are to be three feet apart and the crop will soon shade the ground so as to smother out all weeds that may appear later. He says he will make two plantings this season, two weeks apart. He likes to have the forage green, but as very late plantings are not so heavy—do not produce so much feed—as those made in the best of the growing season, he will not plant later than June 10th.

* * *

Land Fully Occupied. "We have only two acres," said a lady to me a few days ago, "but we keep every foot of it occupied. The dwelling, outhouses, poultry yards and houses take up half an acre, but along the fences—that is, the permanent fences—we have grape-vines, and in every nook and corner a fruit-tree. On this half acre there is no room for anything more. There are currant-bushes alongside the fence. Blackcap raspberry-canoe trained along just above them, and grapes along the top wire. There is rhubarb and asparagus in sunny nooks, and cherry and plum trees shade the poultry yards and houses, with a variety of apple-trees here and there. Apple-trees for shade on the lawn and pear-trees to shade the porch. Half an acre in clover for poultry pasture, with apple-trees, winter varieties, twenty-five feet apart. One fourth acre in oats, which are bound and stored away for the poultry to scratch to bits in winter. One fourth acre in potatoes, which is sown to turnips after the potatoes are dug, and one half acre in corn, which last year yielded sixty-eight bushels."

"Next year the oats patch will be sown to winter wheat, which will provide the hens with lots of green stuff early in the spring, as well as late in the fall, and this will be cut and bound and stored away for the hens to scratch among in winter."

"When we bought this little place it looked like the tattered end of desolation, and now it is the prettiest place about here. You have no idea how much stuff it produces. We give everything the best of care, and I tell you it actually keeps both of us busy all the time."

It certainly is remarkable how much two acres of well-fertilized, thoroughly tilled land will produce when it is fully occupied by growing crops. The soil certainly is generous when well treated. Most of us are spread out too thin. We need to concentrate our forces, and to undertake only what we can do thoroughly. All of us can do better than we are doing.

FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

REDUCING AMOUNT OF FENCING.—

As timber becomes scarce, the tendency is to reduce the amount of fencing on the farm. Where rail timber was abundant, fences could be made without any outlay of money, and in some sections there seemed to be a mania for many cross fences and small fields. Recently I rode through a well-wooded and comparatively new farming district, and the extent of high rail fences indicated a woeful waste of time and hard labor, viewed from the standpoint of one who believes in long rows and cheap tillage. The waste of land in fence rows and the waste of time in keeping them clean seemed wholly out of accord with modern ideas of the right way to meet competition of producers in other districts. The stock-farmer probably must have a number of cross fences, but he reduces the number as much as is possible, depending upon some moveable fence when temporary division of fields is necessary. When he plows, he wants long rows, and now that ditches and swamps may be removed by use of tiles, such rows can usually be gotten.

UNGRAZED FIELDS.—Most farms should have some fields that are never grazed, and herein is a chance for reducing fencing. A block of good land, under a close crop rotation that includes red clover, should not furnish grazing for stock between crops. The feed that cattle may get from meadow after harvest or early in the spring before the sod is broken is worth more to the soil than it is to the stock. This is equally true of rye or other winter cover-crop intended for plowing under in the spring. The soil must be fed as well as stock, and the growths that are not harvested should belong to the soil that is closely cropped. This material helps the soil to help itself, releasing tough plant-food in the ground and improving the mechanical condition. Too little matter is turned under at the best, and all that is taken off tilled fields between regular crops is at the expense of the soil. It is a kind of robbery that does not pay in any way.

APPLYING LIME.—Our best agricultural authorities, including our best farmers, are recognizing more and more the value and necessity of an abundance of humus in the soil. Where it is, there usually is fertility. A heavy clover-sod is one of the best sources of this element, but clover does not always come when wanted. Excepting an abundance of stable manure as a top-dressing, which cannot always be had by the farmer, I believe that a dressing of lime is the best agent for securing clover. This is the experience of thousands of farmers. Formerly it was the practice to use 200 or 300 bushels of lime to the acre, and an application was out of the question for all except those who could burn and apply their own lime. The expense was too great for the man who did have the stone on his farm. It has been found, however, that these heavy dressings are not the best, unless possibly for the stiffest limestone soils that, queerly enough, require more lime than other soils. Many farmers now apply from 25 to 40 bushels of lime to the acre, with most satisfactory results. Such an amount is within reach of the farmer who must buy his lime, provided the freights are not too high.

WHEN TO APPLY LIME.—The old-time heavy applications were usually made to grass-land the summer preceding breaking for a tilled crop. There was lime enough to waste, and any way was a sufficiently good way. In case of a light application, according to modern usage, I should prefer to make it as a top-dressing on an inverted sod, if benefit to a spring crop was wanted, but preferably to land broken for wheat, if clover is the chief object. Lime sinks, and the application should be kept near the surface. It must be borne in mind, however, that it should not be left exposed to the air, but needs immediate mixing with the surface soil. When exposed to the air it reverts to the original chemical form in which it existed before burning. Thorough mixing with the top soil by use of the disk-harrow in preparing the seed-bed for wheat puts the

lime where it will do the most good in releasing plant-food in the ground.

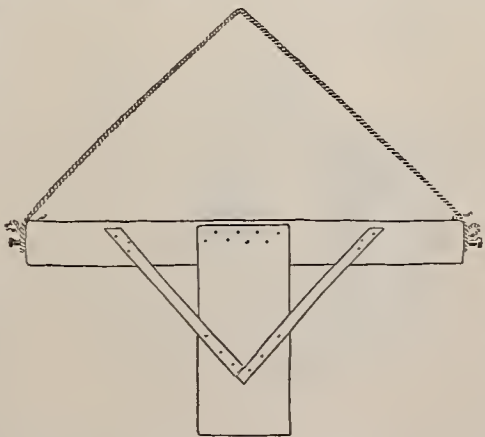
THE ACTION OF LIME.—Lime is rarely needed as a plant-food, it is said, but it breaks up tough plant-food in the soil. For this very reason it should be used to grow such a crop as clover, which restores organic matter to the soil. Lime, without sods or manure, impoverishes land beyond a doubt. It makes available the store in the soil, and that means good crops so long as the store lasts; but good farming demands that we keep the supply of organic matter renewed, and therefore the necessity of sods with lime. Where clover is failing throughout some of our states, I incline to the belief that applications of lime in moderate amounts offer a surer road to more clover than do our commercial fertilizers, though such a rule would have its exceptions. Agricultural lime may be bought at kilns for six or seven cents a bushel, while builders' lime is fifty per cent higher. Where a farmer has the stone and fuel for burning on the farm, the cost a bushel is trifling. The prevailing prejudice against lime is largely due to its unintelligent use in the past. A heavy application, while somewhat costly, brought crops for a few years, and when they diminished, other applications followed, no thought being given to the necessity of giving the land an abundance of vegetable matter to replace that which the lime was breaking up and preparing for use of growing plants. In time the organic portion of the soil was used up, and sterility followed. A light application—25 to 40 bushels—every five or six years, to secure good stands of clover, is a rational and profitable use of lime. Western dealers sometimes allow only 70 pounds for a bushel of unslaked lime, but I have in mind, when giving these figures, the old-time, honest bushel of 80 pounds. Air-slaked lime is not as valuable as water-slaked. The buyer should bear in mind that lime absorbs moisture in slaking, thus increasing the weight, and he can afford to buy and draw only the unslaked.

DAVID.

TWO LAND-LEVELERS.

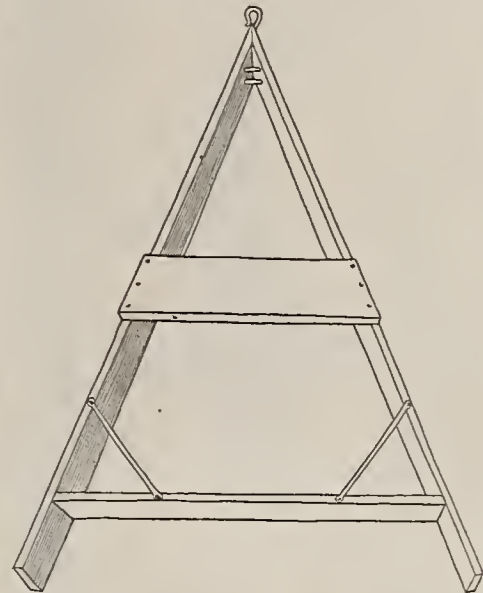
Land should be graded down to smoothness before planting to insure profitable and uniform crops. This is necessary where irrigation is practised, to secure proper moisture and equal distribution of water, and where the rainfall is depended on, ridges will not get enough water, while the lower places will have too much. The best plan is to plow a few acres and level as soon as possible, to move the soil easily and grade the surface to hold the moisture. I have tried patent devices, logs, planks and other leveling processes, but the most satisfactory results have been obtained from home-made graders. They cost almost nothing and can be made quickly by any man who can handle a saw, hammer and nails, and can be replaced every season if old ones are destroyed. Neither of them are patented, and no man can exact a royalty for their manufacture and use.

The cheapest device consists of a small log or pole, about five feet long and six to eight inches in diameter, notched at either end to fasten a rope or chain, and having a three-foot board nailed to the top and dragging behind. Two horses can



be quickly hitched by taking the double-tree and clevis from the plow and attaching to the chain or rope. The driver stands on the log, throwing his weight on either side or stepping back on the board as required. A field may be leveled by driving round or by crossing back and forth. Furrows can be filled and ridges leveled by dragging across and over them. This is made of two-inch slabs or planks, to small pieces of land containing few clods or stones.

The other leveler, which costs more money and requires greater skill in making, will fill the demand for longer areas, and do all that any ordinary machine will. This is made of two-inch slabs or planks, and should be bolted at the three corners. It is A-shaped, and made for rough, hard work. I use two pieces of plank, eight inches wide and two inches thick, about ten feet in length, and another board



about seven feet long. The lower edges are cut down to about one half inch by an adz or drawing-knife, then bolted together, the crosspiece at the back being only six inches in width. A piece of wire or board nailed across on either side give strength to the crosspiece, which is necessary in mashing clods, digging out rocks and roots and dragging the weight of mounds and furrows of earth found too high. A short ten-inch board nailed on the center makes a suitable standing-place for the driver, who shifts his position according to necessity. I use this for filling ditches and dead furrows, breaking down weeds and corn-stalks and smoothing the ridges and knots of new land. The horses may be hitched to a hook or clevis bolted on the front.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

DECORATING FARM GROUNDS.

While as a rule farmers are not as familiar with ornamental trees and plants as they ought to be, to some extent the effects produced when planted on farm grounds are due to lack of proper thought in the selection of suitable varieties. The wide expanse of grounds which usually surrounds the farm home is worthy of better ornamentation than that given by fruit-trees or native trees selected at random from the near-by woods. Previous issues of FARM AND FIRESIDE have contained recommendations on the proper selection of ornamental trees and shrubs, so the attention of the interested reader is in this paper called to the advantages of certain hardy vines, and the plan of having but one class of plants for prominent display. A proper shading of porches or verandas is almost a necessity, and while the morning-glory, the moon-flower and other vines readily grown from seed are attractive and answer the purpose fairly well, they require the expenditure of considerable time and money each and every year, aggregating much more than the cost of honeysuckles, Ampelopsis, clematis, and the like, all hardy and requiring but little care when once established. While most of our hardy vines are exceedingly attractive, I do not know of one better suited to all climates and localities, and more readily grown, than the honeysuckle. All of the varieties are hardy, rapid growers, free bloomers and quite clean in habit. The best varieties are H. Chinese Twining, which blooms at intervals through the summer, with flowers nearly white. Its main characteristic is that it retains its foliage until late in the winter. H. Halleana, better known as Hall Japan honeysuckle, is a general favorite. It is a rapid grower, blooming from June to November, the blossoms white changing to yellow, and very fragrant. H. Monthly Fragrant is another rapid-growing sort which is worthy of attention. The flowers are large, red and yellow in color, and very fragrant. H. Scarlet Trumpet is perhaps the best known of the family. It is a strong, rapid grower and bears bright-red trumpet-shaped flowers, borne freely throughout the season. All of these varieties are entirely hardy and will grow in any soil not entirely dead. Plants of good size may be bought as low

as ten cents each, and they will grow ten feet or more in a single season, requiring little care beyond the annual enriching of the soil, moderate pruning and training to the trellis.

For a combination of ornamental foliage and handsome bloom, I know of nothing more attractive than the canna. It is true the plant is not hardy and the roots will have to be taken up each fall and stored during the winter, but aside from this the labor required to produce the most satisfactory results is so small that they may be considered ideal plants for lawn ornamentation. The dry roots may be obtained in the early spring, and if planted in shallow boxes or pots and kept in a warm room and watered will be ready for transplanting to the open ground in May. Plants already started may be bought in May or June, and set in the ground as wanted. The varieties vary in height from two and a half to six feet and more, and one is thus able, by the proper selection of varieties, to use them in beds or in the border or even as single specimens. An attractive bed may be arranged as follows: Set the center of the bed with two or three plants of, say Alphonse Bouvier, a beautiful sort bearing crimson flowers and growing six to seven feet in height; next in order place plants of Progression, which grow about four and one half feet high and bear golden-yellow flowers; the next circle should be Edward Mieg, growing to a height of three or three and one half feet, and bearing rich scarlet flowers. The outer circle should be set to Sunbeam, growing two to two and one half feet high, with large golden-yellow blossoms marked with orange. All of these varieties have heavy tropical foliage and bloom all summer, making an attraction hard to excel. The same plan could be carried out in the border, using the same varieties with, of course, the taller plants in the background. Set in a bed surrounded with a wide expanse of lawn, with here and there an ornamental tree or shrub, with the vines covering the porches, we have an effect at once tropical, rich and inexpensive and easily cared for, and, in my opinion, especially suitable for farm grounds.

The roots of cannas should be taken up in the fall after the plant begins to die down, and kept in a cool cellar in dry sand. The roots increase rapidly and they may be divided in the spring before being started into growth. If the soil is moderately rich, the growth of roots will have been so great that the division will easily double your stock. GEO. R. KNAPP.

CRIMSON CLOVER A DANGEROUS STOCK-FOOD.

The use of crimson clover as a cover-crop has, within the last few years, become justly popular. Being a winter annual its season of growth is exactly suited to the use of the orchardist who believes, as he should, in catch-crops. If crimson clover be used for this purpose alone and turned under in the spring at the proper time, the danger from its use as stock-food need not be feared, and animals may be turned upon the plants up to the time of its being plowed under. Injuries to cattle and sheep have so far not been reported, but when used in certain stages of its growth as food for the horse it has been found to produce death from the formation of hair-balls in the animal's stomach. These hair-balls, often more than three inches in diameter, block the passage from the stomach to the small intestine, producing an irritation that after a period of greater or less duration causes the death of the animal from inflammation of the bowels or similar disorder.

The individual plant-hairs of crimson clover that form these hair-balls are usually less than an eighth of an inch long, and are covered more or less thickly with little barbs all pointing toward the apex of the hair. These hairs, when the plant is immature, are soft and flexible and not liable to accumulate in masses in the alimentary canal. But when the plant has become mature the hairs are stiff and bristly and liable to form the balls. It is apparent, therefore, that feeding horses with crimson clover that has been allowed to pass the flowering stage is attended with a risk that becomes greater as the plants become more and more mature; from which it may be seen that the practice of feeding the clover-straw after the thrashing out of the seed is to be condemned in the strongest terms, since the hairs are then most liable to collect in masses as noted. M. G. K.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

FIRST EARLY POTATOES.—In my notes on this subject in an earlier issue of FARM AND FIRESIDE, I forgot to mention the Early Andes potato. I believe it is advertised in these columns by the introducer, Mr. H. C. Marsh, of Indiana. I have grown it for one or two seasons, the introducer kindly having furnished me with seed for trial. The potato is surely a fine-looking and promising one, showing the Rose type. It is smooth and very regular in shape and color, resembling the old Early Rose, of fine quality and apparently very productive. In this last respect the Early Ohio has always been rather uncertain with us. On rich, strong loam we have had the Ohio yield enormous crops one year, and very light ones the next, under apparently the same conditions. The reliable features about the Ohio are its earliness, and its mealiness, even in its earlier stages of ripeness. The Early Andes is claimed to be even earlier than the Ohio. My own tests did not bear it out in this claim, but I confess that there were conditions of soil and season surrounding my tests last year which made them anything but conclusive. Some of the experiment stations on the other hand, give very flattering reports. At the Maine station the Andes ripened in ninety-three days, the Ohio in one hundred days; at the New Jersey station the Andes ripened in ninety-three days; at the Oregon station in ninety-four days; at the Michigan station in eighty-nine days (of course from the day of planting). Mr. Samuel E. Green, of the Minnesota station is sure "that the Andes is as early as the Early Ohio." I can only say that I hope he is right. This matter of getting a really good and reliably productive first early potato is one of considerable importance to all of us, no less than to get a really good first early tomato. Of course I am trying the Andes again this year, and shall try to give it such surroundings that the test will be a telling one. If I find a potato as early as the Ohio, as good as that old sort, and better in some respects, I shall certainly rejoice.

* * *

SEEDS TO BURN.—Yes, there are "seeds to burn" every spring. I always have a lot of left-over seeds, and these need a thorough inspection and weeding-out. Some of them are as good as any fresh seeds I could buy, and these I save and use. But there will also be found a lot of packages of doubtful age and quality. These are the seeds that should at once be given up as a burnt offering, and as a bid for, and assurance of, a good crop. Sacrifice in this way the old parsnip and onion seeds, and peas or beans older than two or three years, and all the nameless stuff that may have accumulated for some years, or everything else that has not proved up to the standard. We should make it a strict rule to label every seed-package with the utmost care, and especially never forget to mark down the year in which the seed was grown (or supposedly grown, in case of purchased seed). Few of us are careful enough in this respect. We should never rely on memory in anything relating to seeds and varieties.

* * *

EARLIEST TOMATOES.—I have just had a letter from Mr. E. C. Green, of Ohio, the originator of a new tomato introduced this season by Mr. Burpee under the name, "Fordhook Fancy." Mr. Green says: "Your article on early tomatoes in FARM AND FIRESIDE, of March 1st, was entirely in accord with my ideas. It seems to me that there ought to be a tomato much earlier than any we now have, if we can draw any analogy from other vegetables. I think the best way, at present, is to grow plants of the dwarf sorts as large as possible in the greenhouse, and then set them outdoors. I am in hopes that my new dwarf will prove useful for this, as it is very stocky and sets fruit on very small plants. This tomato is a cross between Dwarf Champion and Potato Leaf, and is decidedly new in foliage, and the fruit is good. But still I shall look and watch for an early tomato in the larger types, and hope it may be found sometime. Whether it will come from the old 'one-hundred-day' type, or from any crosses from that type, I am in doubt." I, for myself, am not looking for an earlier tomato than we already have.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL E. GREEN.

STRAWBERRIES.

Our last report on strawberries was made in 1894, Bulletin 54. Owing to severe frosts in 1895 the crop was a failure, nor was the crop in 1896 satisfactory, so far as giving opportunity to compare varieties was concerned; hence it was thought best to delay reporting until the present season.

The interest in new varieties seems to be undiminished, as shown by the number sent for trial, as well as by the number introduced each season. This is partly because there is a fascination about the production of new varieties, and partly because there is still room for improvement.

Although the crop of the past season was uncommonly large, and the price discouragingly low, the interest in new varieties seems to be as intense as ever. Such seasons as the present show the necessity of having large, showy varieties, sufficiently firm to carry well to market. The list of varieties of this kind is very short, hence the stimulus to produce something better is even greater when prices are low than when high.

The progress in the development of the strawberry is slow, but there is progress, nevertheless. This is seen not in the production of one variety that will meet all requirements, but in the development of particular traits or characteristics.

We have better early and better late varieties than we had a few years ago. There are much better and longer lists of varieties from which to choose sorts for any particular purpose—for near market, for long shipment, for fancy trade, for home use, etc. It must be admitted that improvement in quality has been comparatively slow, although Brunette, Marshall and Aroma do not suffer in comparison with older sorts.

The number of valuable perfect-flowered varieties has been greatly increased within a few years, and it is much easier now to find reliable pollenizers than it was ten years ago.

It may appear that the station has done very little toward the improvement of the strawberry, and such is the fact, although thousands of seedlings have been grown and fruited. Many have been grown that were superior to the majority of the varieties offered for sale, but only a few have been reserved for further trial.

While it is true that good varieties are of utmost importance to strawberry-growers, and equally true that the highest possible standard has not been reached, there is danger of giving the variety question too great prominence. There are other matters connected with strawberry culture which ought to receive relatively more attention.

It is quite probable that low prices will be the rule for some time to come, and

growers must decide whether they will try to produce berries more cheaply, or better ones. In deciding this question they should remember that the cheapening of production, in strawberry culture, is likely to result in extensive, rather than intensive cultivation. And it should be remembered also that the prizes and profits almost all fall to those who follow intensive culture.

While the prices for fancy berries are not likely to be as high in the near future as in the past, the difference between common grades and fancy will probably be greater than it has been. There are but few crops that offer greater rewards for intensive cultivation than the strawberry.

WATER IN STRAWBERRY CULTURE.

Irrigation cannot be regarded as indispensable to success in strawberry culture, as by means of heavy mulching sufficient water may be retained in the soil for the necessities of the crop in ordinary season, but an abundant supply of water simply makes success more certain, and where intensive culture is practised an irrigation plant ought to be a part of the equipment.

Strawberry-plants require an abundance of moisture at all stages of growth, but this is most easily secured during the first season by attending to the proper details in preparation of the soil, and in cultivation.

Land which will not wash nor run together, if plowed in the fall, forms a good reservoir for water, and the surface may be worked with cultivator or harrow even earlier than if not plowed until spring. Such surface-working, if commenced early and kept up at frequent intervals, will retain the moisture very effectively. A heavy coating of manure plowed under in the fall is useful to enable the soil to retain moisture; but if plowed under in the spring it might have just the opposite effect by preventing the rise of water from below.

Next to fall plowing is early spring plowing, and the importance of this, in strawberry culture, is seldom appreciated. To allow the soil to become dry in the spring beyond the point necessary for it to get into a good workable condition is taking a great risk in strawberry culture.

Intensive culture does not permit the taking of such risks. Early and continuous cultivation saves the moisture to a greater extent than is commonly supposed. It has been found that the loss of moisture from unplowed ground may be in excess of that from cultivated soil to an amount equal to an inch and three fourths of rainfall in one week. A man with a team and sprinkling-cart could not replace the water on an acre of land as fast as it escapes by evaporation from the soil, when it goes off at that rate, if he had to haul the water one fourth of a mile. The importance of stirring the soil soon after a shower is generally known, but in practice, cultivation after slight showers is often neglected. This is because the soil does not become compacted and no

crust forms after slight showers; hence the necessity of stirring the soil at once is not apparent.

A slight wetting of a dry soil, however, increases the upward flow of water; hence there is more water added to the surface soil at such times than comes in the form of rain. The sun and wind soon dissipate the slight rainfall and along with it much of the water which came from the lower layers of the soil, leaving the soil dryer than before.

As the two are commonly used, a cultivator is a better machine for irrigating than a sprinkling-cart. The cultivator, if rightly used, saves moisture, while the sprinkling-cart is more likely than not to be the means of wasting it. These are matters not to be overlooked in intensive strawberry culture, and as this is the only kind of strawberry culture that is likely to pay in the near future, they ought to receive earnest consideration.

SUMMARY.

Although the progress in the development of the strawberry has been slow, there is progress, nevertheless, which is seen not in the production of a perfect variety for all purposes, but in the development of particular traits or characteristics.

The station has grown many thousand seedlings, but all have been discarded, although many were more valuable than the majority of those offered for sale.

While good varieties are of great importance to fruit-growers, there is danger of making the variety question unduly prominent.

It would be well to give more attention to intensive culture, as there are but few crops that offer greater inducements in this direction than the strawberry.

Summer planting is one method of growing fancy berries, and a good plan is to set the plants in triple rows, in imitation of the open matted row.

The plants from spring-set beds may be utilized in this manner, accomplishing the purpose of thinning at the same time. This method is particularly feasible where water is at hand, and may be practised by gardeners to good advantage.

The use of water for irrigating strawberries is another means of intensive culture, especially during the season of fruiting.

The conservation of moisture is best accomplished the first season by fall, or early plowing, and thorough cultivation.

It is quite as necessary to stir the soil after light as after heavy showers, even though no crust is formed.

The following are the most promising of the new varieties: Aroma, Anna Kennedy, Beauty, Copernicus, Clyde, Carrie, Enormous, Gleu Mary, Hall's Favorite, unnamed seedling from A. Luther, unnamed seedling from H. Orewiler, Portage, Ruby, Rio, Staples, unnamed seedling No. 1 from S. H. & A. J. See, Tennessee Prolific.—Bulletin Ohio Experiment Station.

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In the spring I was all worn out and very sick, suffering more than ever from a scrofulous humor which had affected me ever since I was a child. My limbs were a mass of fiery red rash which itched and burned unendurably. In March I began taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, used six bottles, and since then I have been able to do my work, including my washing and ironing and my house cleaning."

parilla, used six bottles, and since then I have been able to do my work, including my washing and ironing and my house cleaning."

Mrs. IDA M. POTTER, Conneaut, Ohio.



I WAS DISCOURAGED

With my sufferings from dyspepsia for over twenty years. There seemed to be a lump in my stomach all the time. I did not dare to eat meat or warm bread and very sparingly of vegetables. I often went hungry because I knew I would suffer intensely with distress if I satisfied my appetite. I read so much of what Hood's Sarsaparilla had done for others that I decided to try it, and soon realized its magic touch. The distress in my stomach decreased, my appetite improved and my general health is very much better. I gained in weight and can now eat without any distress." Mrs. B. W. BUMP, Middleboro, Mass.

IN HARVESTING TIME

I had to give up work entirely. My trouble began with nervousness, heart palpitation, that tired feeling, and in hot weather diarrhoea kept me down. Then I had to take my bed, and when the doctor got me on my feet I was in a very bad condition, with no appetite, swollen limbs, unable to sleep. Then Hood's Sarsaparilla came to my rescue, my health improved fast, I slept well, the swelling went down, and that nervousness ended." JOHN H. STIVERS, Mediapolis, Iowa.

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Our farm.

TALKS ON TIMELY TOPICS.

IMPROVING DAIRY STOCK.—One who seems to think he knows what he is talking about says that he has always considered it a misfortune that grades, whether of sheep or cattle, were in a measure excluded from our fairs by withholding premiums from them, and awarding the prizes all to thoroughbred stock. Now, this shows a misconception of the facts, and also erroneous ideas as to breeding. With the exception of our interstate and state fairs, three fourths of the stock shown at our lesser and county fairs is from the ranks of the grades. This is true of dairy stock, oxen and steers, sheep and swine, and liberal premiums are offered and won by these classes of stock. And this is well for this class of stock, but for sires in the various classes, grades are practically barred from all. This is as it should be. No farmer can afford to breed to anything but the best blood nowadays. The main source of improvement in the dairy herd is the sire; proper selection of the heifer calves, right principles of feeding carried out with these, comes next in importance. The man who breeds to a grade bull knows not what ground he is standing on. Life is too short to fool away time after such fashion. In breeding to a right sort of a thoroughbred one has a reasonable hope to tie to that results will be fairly satisfactory, with after-management on the same plane, but to breed to a grade sire is like a lottery, a big lot of blanks to exceedingly few prizes.

The progress of every industry does not depend so much on what a few individuals do, as on what the great masses are doing. The few great breeding establishments and importing firms of blooded stock—few in comparison with the great mass of farmers—to be found in every state are potent factors to the advance of higher ideals in stock-breeding, but real progress in the improvement of the stock industry of a section is measured by the degree of interest the mass of farmers show in practicing upon the examples afforded them. The man with ample means at command can gather around him the best in breeding-stock the market affords. If he makes a failure in his choice of breeding animals, he has only to discard them and purchase others. The small farmer needs to breed in more careful fashion. His ideas of correct breeding may be truer than his more wealthy neighbor. He studies the matter from an economical standpoint; hence, more careful in his venture. He gets inspiration from the big farmer. The "ketching" quality of emulation ever in a humbler sphere springs up all around, and the mass of farmers are benefited by the wealthy example. But the real progress is shown in the uplifting of the many.

DEHORNING CALVES.—The dehorning of cattle has taken the form of a fad in some sections. Whatever benefits may accrue from dehorning of stock, all the arguments brought to bear to uphold the practice do not excuse the cruelty of the practice. If the horns are undesirable, remove them in the embryo in the young calf. In a recent bulletin issued from the Maine experiment station, Prof. Woods says that experiments along the line above indicated have proven highly satisfactory. For the past three years the calves born at the station have been dehorned when young by the use of caustic potash. The dehorning has been done as soon as the buttons could be felt, and not later than twenty days from birth. Calves dehorned at this age, Prof. Woods says, have never yet shown any horns. One dehorned when thirty-five days old developed dwarf horns an inch or so long. Dehorning with potash is done by clipping the hair away from the buttons, moistening the end of the stick of potash slightly, and rubbing one embryo horn for four or five seconds, then the other in the same manner. Each horn should be treated thus four or five times. Four or five minutes' time is thus required in dehorning a calf. Care should be taken not to have too much moisture about the potash, as it might spread and remove the hair from too large a surface. The calf should be kept from getting wet during the next few days for the same reason. Healing soon

follows the operation. Smooth polls have resulted in every case, except the one mentioned as having been done at too late an age.

SPRAYING.—The great mass of farmers are slow to adopt new things, even when the utility of their adoption is made manifest by the few in a neighborhood. Take, for instance, the matter of spraying fruit-trees, both for the destruction of fungi and eating insects. The benefits of the application of the Bordeaux mixture to apple-trees to destroy the fungi or apple-scab; to plum-trees for the plum-rot; to currants and gooseberry-vines for mildew and fungi; to strawberries for rust and pin-hole fungi; this carrying Paris green or some other insecticide for the codling-worms and all leaf-eating insects are patent to all, yet but a small minority of the farmers avail themselves of the benefits of spraying. Even farmers are very superficial observers. While they have the best opportunity of all to observe the great damage done to their fruit-trees by insects, many fail to associate the idea of cause and effect as exemplified in fruit inferior in quality and small in quantity occasioned by the depredations of insects. Take the unsprayed fruit-trees of the orchard and garden. Examine them in midsummer, and scarcely a perfect leaf will be found. They will be either spotted with yellow and black of the apple-scab fungi or partially devoured by leaf-eating insects. A tree cannot perfect its fruit unless its leaf-system is perfect. The ravages of the bud-moth larva in spring upon our apple-trees, and the injury therefrom to the apple crop, is immense. Spraying with the Bordeaux mixture, carrying a pound of Paris green to one hundred and fifty gallons of the mixture, applied just as the buds have swelled to bursting, is the opportune time to kill the apple-scab and destroy the larva of the bud-moth, also the young larva of the tent-caterpillar and the forest-tree caterpillars. A little later application of the same, with one or two subsequent ones in summer, clears the fruit of the codling-worms.

L. F. ABBOTT.

ARTICHOKES.

I see that the papers and farmers are interested in the artichoke. I raised one half acre the past season, and found them of great value as hog-feed. I did not dig and store any for winter use, as I had a large crop of potatoes, which I fed them when the ground was frozen, as the hogs could not get artichokes. The growth is so enormous that one who has never seen them grow can scarcely believe the quantity grown on an acre, or the mammoth growth of the stalk. I have the Mammoth White Jerusalem artichoke. The tubers are very large and crisp. I cannot say what yield I had, but don't put it in the thousands, as some do. I would plant as early in the spring as possible. Prepare ground as for potatoes, and plant in rows three feet apart, and in hills eighteen inches apart, six bushels to the acre. Cultivate same as potatoes, and leave ground as level as possible, for tubers all form and run between rows. Freezing don't hurt them. They improve after the first frost, as that stops the growth. I think them a good substitute for oil-meal at a very little cost, and the hogs do the digging. I have no seed to sell.

HENRY BUSBOOM.

Illinois.

PICKED POINTS.

MILLET.—A reader asks why I oppose the growing of millet as a fodder crop. My attention was first called to this subject through remarks made by Prof. Roberts, of Cornell University, some years ago. He said he would not grow it on the college farm, because he had seen enough of its evil effects upon stock while engaged at a western agricultural college. This led me to subsequent investigations. I found that it is liable to have disastrous effect upon the kidneys of animals. There seems but little danger if cut before seed forms, and then fed green, or properly cured, and fed as hay; but a large majority of farmers are so careless that they will not heed this warning, and illness of animals and veterinary calls ensue. A few farmers grow and feed the stuff with apparent advantage; but they are of a class who always do things timely and in order. For such reasons I could not conscientiously recommend, in the public press, the growing of millet. Another weighty rea-

son is that both corn and sorghum are more profitable fodder crops, green or dry.

DR. GALEN WILSON.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

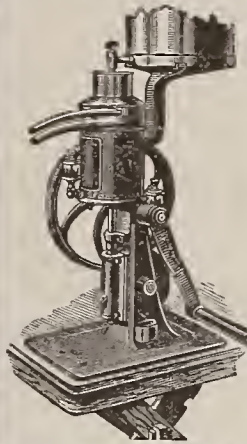
FROM ALABAMA.—Autauga county is situated about the middle of the state. The land is level and fertile; the climate delightful. Nearly all fruits, berries and vegetables do well here. Corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, peanuts, oats, rye, hay and sugarcane are some of the principal farm products. Sheep, hogs and cattle also do well, and can be raised here cheaper than any other section of the South. Land is cheap, and can be had in any quantities to suit the buyer. Autauga county is the garden-spot of the South, with its healthful and delightful climate and pure water.

E. V. S.

Bozeman, Ala.

FROM TENNESSEE.—Clarksville, the county-seat of Montgomery, is a beautiful town of about ten thousand inhabitants. It is composed of an energetic, enterprising, industrious, sociable, educated, church-going people. Clarksville has many fine churches of the different denominations, and schools, both public and private. The public schools run ten months of the year; children of the poor as well as the rich can obtain a good education free. Our people are as famous for health as the Klondike is for gold. Tobacco is our main money-crop, although we raise corn, wheat, oats, potatoes and all garden vegetables, melons and fruits of various kinds, such as apples, peaches, pears, plums, cherries, etc. This section before the late war had an immense iron interest, with many furnaces, forges, etc. Since that time with the low price of iron this interest has subsided, and some of the lands of those large iron companies have been divided into small tracts and sold at various prices from twenty cents to five dollars an acre on time, thereby enabling men of small means to obtain homes. I have in my mind's eye at this time two men that are now cultivating some of those lands that were sold at public outcry for nineteen cents an acre, who last year sold the tobacco raised on eight acres for \$1,000, besides raising corn, wheat, etc., for home use. One hand can cultivate from three to five acres of tobacco, according to land and other crops he raises. The land will produce from 600 to 1,500 pounds to the acre, and price ranges from three to fifteen cents a pound, according to quality. Any one of energy can very easily make a good living. Clarksville stands at the head of the list as a dark-tobacco market. It contains many tobacco-warehouses for the sale of tobacco in hogsheads, and many stemmeries for the benefit of those who prefer to sell and deliver their crops loose from the wagon. Millions of dollars are expended annually for this one product alone. We can boast of few very wealthy men, but we are comparatively free from paupers. We raise our own hogs and hominy, and do business at the same old stand. We gladly welcome all honest, industrious homeseekers. I feel assured that Northern capitalists, as well as homeseekers, would do well to investigate our country and its resources before investing elsewhere. Clarksville stands at all times with wide-stretched arms, to manufacturing companies or parties wishing to invest in such. Our country is well watered and finely timbered. McAllister's Cross Roads, Tenn. J. D. M.

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POULTRY AND STAPLE CROPS.

LET the reader look over the average crops an acre, and then compare with poultry. First, let us consider what an acre of land will do under ordinary cultivation. Allowing sixty bushels of corn, or fifty bushels of oats, or thirty bushels of wheat, the sum derived by the farmer will not be over \$30 an acre from any of the crops named, and to secure this he must get fifty cents a bushel for his corn, sixty cents for his oats and one dollar for his wheat. This estimate has been made by allowing good crops and high prices. No estimate is made for labor, as only gross sums are used for comparison. The farmer does not seed his land with more seed than is necessary; that is, he does not attempt to get twice as much wheat by doubling his seed, but considers the capacity of the land to give a certain result. Suppose the farmer should do the same with poultry, and keep only fifty hens on an acre, would he not save labor and meet with fewer losses and obstacles? It is true that labor and cost are to be considered when keeping fifty hens on an acre, but there is labor and cost in growing the crops, as plowing, harrowing, cultivating, harvesting, storing, hauling and marketing are duties to be performed. Fowls, however, may have diseases, and yet droughts, freshets, insects and other obstacles must be met when growing crops. If farmers will use their land for poultry, and not attempt to keep large flocks on small plots, they should be successful. It is doubtful if there is a farmer who does not know that to give fifty hens the exclusive use of an acre of ground, and bestow the same care on them that is necessary for crops, a larger profit can be secured than from any kind of crop. It would not satisfy a farmer to clear \$50 from a flock of fifty hens after paying all expenses, but suppose he clears \$25 a year from fifty hens, will he not do much better than with cereal crops, as there is probably not \$10 an acre profit on wheat, even when prices are one dollar a bushel? The average yield of wheat in this country is only twelve bushels an acre. In those sections where large markets are near the farms, there is an advantage in favor of such farmers, but with a rapid increase of population in this country it will not be long before good markets will exist in all sections.

BROODING CHICKS.

In an inferior brooder chicks cannot be raised at all. No moisture should be on the glass doors or windows in a brooder. It is not necessary to keep air out, and it is not essential for air to be cold to be pure. Keep the brooder from ninety-five to one hundred degrees. Keep the room in which the brooder is placed at ninety degrees. Treat the chicks as though they were babies, and do not let a breath of cold air blow upon them; if you wish fresh air warm it first. No chick will live in a cold temperature any more than will a new-born baby. When every brood of chicks have diarrhea it is a sure sign that they have been chilled and do not get enough warmth. No kinds of feed have anything to do with it. It is always the lack of warmth.

GRIT OF VARIOUS KINDS.

Broken flint is preferred because it is sharp as well as hard. It is superior to oyster-shells because it has greater cutting power, and serves the purpose of grit more perfectly. Limestone is preferred to all other substances. Limestone, marble (which is really limestone), oyster-shells, clam-shells, sea-shells and chalk are almost identical in composition, all being or containing carbonate of lime, and if oyster-shells supply lime so will limestone. Now chalk is also carbonate of lime, but it is too soft to serve as grit, hence, in order to secure sharp and hard grit from a substance that contains a form of lime, the limestone should be preferred. Bone, coarsely ground, is also excellent. Fowls will not consume more than they require if it is placed before them.

HATCHING EARLY PULLETS.

If hens are allowed to sit and raise broods without having special places prepared, the result will be loss. But it is necessary, in order to get a good start for next year's pullets that are to be retained, they be hatched before this spring is gone; and are the farmers prepared to do this? Bear in mind that it requires three weeks for the eggs to hatch. What can be done now, however, is to have little coops and runs prepared and put up a shed-roof, with plenty of sunlight in which to place the coops when the chicks come out. The hatching of the early pullets is the most important matter in poultry-raising. It gives a good start next year and enables the farmer to get more eggs in winter, and better prices. If the hens will not sit feed them heavily on corn, and when they are fat they will begin to become broody. But for the prejudice of the farmers against incubators they could hatch out all the pullets desired at a single hatch, and thus save time and labor, keeping the hens laying instead of raising broods. As April comes there is something gained by feeding more meat and less grain, and the grain should be gradually reduced to none at all as the days become warmer, until the hens can be turned out on a range and help themselves. If the hens are not all laying before April has passed, every one that has not responded should be sold, giving all the room to the hens that are laying. By so doing you will get a larger number of eggs at less cost, as it is frequently the case that flocks are too large, and fail to pay because they are crowded. Any bird in the flock that has not paid for itself, or has commenced doing so, is an incumbrance. Do not turn out the hens too soon; warmth induces laying; feed clover, meat, bone and egg-producing elements, and every hen should commence work in filling the basket.

LARGE HENS AS SITTERS.

The large breeds are regarded as the best sitters and mothers, and are preferred by the majority of farmers for performing duty in those lines; but while it is true that the very large hens can cover more eggs than can small ones, and are persistent sitters and careful mothers, yet they do not succeed as well as the smaller hens, at some seasons. Large hens are clumsy, and they frequently not only break some of the eggs in the nests during the period of incubation, due to their heavy weight, but they also unintentionally crush some of the chicks after they are hatched. In the winter season, where confinement is the rule, large hens should be preferred, providing each hen with a brood is given a large nest and ample room under shelter, as they can better provide warmth for the chicks; but during the spring, when the chicks have more liberty, the small and active hens will prove the better mothers, and they will lose fewer chicks than will be the case with the hens that are large and clumsy. The best sitters are the hens that break no eggs or trample their chicks.

GAPES IN CHICKS.

After the hatching season sets in there will be complaints that the chicks die of gapes. The difficulty is caused by minute thread-like worms in the windpipe. They are supposed to come from substances picked up with the food or from the ground, hatching from eggs, as claimed by some, while others attribute the cause to earthworms. It is more prevalent on old farms that have been occupied by poultry for many years than on new localities, hence some keep the chicks on clean board floors until they are well grown, so as to be out of danger. Turpentine is the remedy used—a drop on a bread-crumble, forced down the throat once a day, or oftener, if required.

DAMP NESTS.

Much has been written on the effects of moisture in hatching, and of the advantages of having the nests on the damp ground. It cannot be explained, however, why the hen on the top of a dry hay-mow hatches out just as many chicks as the one on the ground. The fact is that the hen never seeks a damp nest. What she aims to secure is a cool nest in summer and a warm one in winter, as a warm nest in summer will be unbearable if the eggs contain chicks, the animal heat of the chicks in the eggs increasing the temperature above the degree required for the hatching.

INCUBATION BENEFICIAL.

There will be periods when the hens will lay but few eggs, especially if they have done good service since the year opened. Such an occurrence does not indicate that they will be no longer profitable, but that they are recuperating. Some hens begin to sit and while on the nests, and when brooding the chicks they come again into good laying condition, as may be noticed if such hens are observed, as they lay steadily after abandoning the chicks. Rest from labor is essential, as no animal can produce something continually. The hens that take "resting spells" are usually the best flock.

HATCHING GUINEAS.

It requires about four weeks for the eggs of guineas to hatch, and the eggs should be hatched under hens so as to bring the young ones out about May, which is soon enough. Put a few chicks with the brood and they will teach the young guineas to go to roost with the other fowls when they become larger. Guineas are excellent insect-destroyers and seek their food from the fields. They do not scratch, and do not damage crops if there is an abundance of other food. They are not salable in the markets, but are delicacies on the home table, and lay a large number of eggs.

CHICKS OF DIFFERENT AGES.

It is not a good plan to have chicks of different ages together. It will do them no harm when the difference is but a week or two, after they are well feathered, but when they are very small the larger ones are likely to crowd and crush those that are smaller. The indiscriminate mode of raising chicks, that is, to have all together, is the reason that so many farmers hatch a great number and find so few of them alive when they call them up in the fall to be counted, and it may be claimed that more chicks are lost in this manner than from hawks and other enemies.

LIME IN THE POULTRY-HOUSE.

Lime may injure the droppings by permitting of the escape of ammonia, which has deterred poultrymen from its use, but if the poultry-house is cleaned daily, and the droppings removed to the manure heap, or mixed with twice their bulk of earth and kept moist (not wet), there will be no loss. Lime is one of the best substances that can be used in the poultry-house. It destroys the germs of roup, prevents gapes, and dries the floor, a lump of stone lime being the best thing for absorbing dampness in the house.

REDUCING THE FLOCK.

During the month of May is the time to get rid of the extra fowls that are unprofitable. If you are satisfied that it is too late to allow more hens to sit, get rid of the males and save expenses, as they are not necessary except to fertilize the eggs, and the hens will lay as many eggs without the presence of the males. Also, get rid of the extra fat hens, as they will not pay for the food they consume.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Leghorns.—R. A., Salem, Ohio, writes: "How many varieties of Rose-comb Leghorns are recognized in the standard?"

REPLY:—Two; Rose-comb Brown Leghorns and Rose-comb White Leghorns.

Laying.—A. N. S., McDonoughville, La., writes: "Will pullets lay if not mated with males?"

REPLY:—Yes; the flock will produce as many eggs without the presence of males as with them.

Turkeys.—G. R. A., Butler, Pa., writes: "I have a flock of mixed turkeys, and wish a pure-bred gobbler; would it be better to procure an old one or a yearling?"

REPLY:—The gobbler should be at least eighteen months old, if you desire strong chicks.

Feeding Chicks.—Subscriber writes: "On January 28th I had six Plymouth Rocks and six Leghorns hatched. I gave them three drops of camphor in half a pint of milk for a drink, with rolled oats, cracked wheat and boiled eggs (two eggs a day). When two weeks old they became constipated, so I omitted the eggs and camphor. Four Leghorns dwindled away. One Plymouth Rock, three weeks old, went blind."

REPLY:—Perhaps the loss was caused by the large lice on the head. Plain food, of a variety without the camphor, would have been better. Egg should be fed sparingly. The blindness may be due to drafts and overfeeding.

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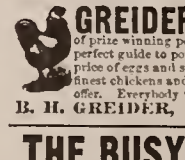
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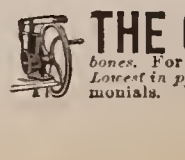
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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Dehorning Calves.—G. L., Port Gihson, N. Y., and others. See article on page 5 of this number of FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Mushroom Culture.—C. B., Aspinwall, Pa. Write to Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Farmers' Bulletin on Mushroom Culture.

To Kill Moles.—W. L. G., Garfield, Va. Moles can be poisoned by strychnine mixed with sugar, inserted in the runs through a smooth tube or quill. You can get a good mole-trap from N. N. Wherry, Plymouth, Mich.

Crimson Clover in Orchard.—C. R., West Nyack, N. Y. Do not sow crimson clover in the spring. Cultivate your orchard thoroughly until the middle of July, then seed it down with crimson clover to be turned under the following spring.

To Kill Bermuda Grass.—L. C., Sneedville, Tenn. Like quack-grass, Bermuda grass spreads by creeping root-stocks. Thorough cultivation will kill it, and rapid-growing plants, like cow-peas, will shade and choke it out.

Ginseng Culture.—Many Inquirers. The Department of Agriculture has just published a revised edition of Bulletin No. 16—American Ginseng. Copies may be obtained for five cents each, from the Superintendent of Documents, Union Building, Washington, D. C.

Brooder-lamp.—Several readers ask me where they can get a brooder-lamp such as mentioned in my article on "Home-made Brooder." I got mine with a baby brooder from a Quincy, Ill., firm, and found it fully efficient for my much larger brooder. Probably any one of the parties who advertise incubators and brooders will furnish such lamps at a small price.—T. GREINER.

So-called Sherman Act of 1890.—J. H., Kendalia, W. Va., asks: "Does the Sherman law of 1890 provide for the redemption of Treasury notes in silver?"

ANSWER.—Yes. The redemption clause reads: "That upon demand of the holder of any of the Treasury notes herein provided for, the Secretary of the Treasury shall, under such regulations as he may prescribe, redeem such notes in gold or silver coin, at his discretion, it being the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present legal ratio, or such ratio as may be established by law."

Soy and Cow Beans.—L. C., of North Lewisburg, Ohio, writes: "Is the soja or soy bean the real coffee-bean? Do they make good coffee? How many bushels will they produce to the acre? Where can I get some seed? Is the cow-pea of the South as good a crop to raise for dairy cattle as corn? Where can I get seed, and at what price?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER.—The bean offered by A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio, and other dealers in seeds, as "coffee-bean," is an early variety of the Japanese soy-bean, and will produce from fifteen to twenty-five or even thirty bushels of beans an acre. It makes a good and wholesome substitute for the real coffee. Here at the North corn is the fodder-plant above all others, especially where stock enough is kept, that the nearly mature stalks can be cut up and preserved in silo. On the other hand, the Southern cow-pea can be grown as a soiling-crop much further north than it is usually found, and will prove useful for many purposes. Early varieties should be selected. They will yield from ten to thirty bushels an acre. All Southern seedsmen keep them in stock. Look up the catalogues, for instance, of Wood & Son, Richmond, Va.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. Detmers, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

A Subject for the Tuberculin Test.—H. D., Uniontown, Pa. The symptoms of your cow, as given in your inquiry, are such as to make it advisable to subject your cow to the tuberculin test. The "lumps" along the backbone of your cow are so-called warbles, and contain the larvae of the gad-fly of cattle.

An Unthrifty Mare.—C. R., West Nyack, N. Y. Since we have a prospect of an early spring, I advise you to exuempt your mare, which you describe as unthrifty, low-spirited, easily sweating and getting tired, being "hide-bound," etc., from all kinds of work, and to send her, as soon as possible, to a good pasture, in which she finds good, sweet grasses to eat and cleau water to drink. By all means stop feeding a tablespoonful of coprapas (sulphate of iron) with each meal.

A Wind-sucker.—J. B. H., Williamston, N. C. A wind-sucker is nothing more nor less than an expert cribber. The only difference is this: A cribber, in order to be able to swallow air, needs a point of support, and uses as such either the shoulder or the bottom of the feed-box, or something else, for instance, a post (post-sucker), a neck-yoke, the pole of a wagon, etc., whereas a wind-sucker has become such an expert that he can indulge in his bad habit without any support whatever. It is, therefore, still more difficult to break a wind-sucker of his ugly habit than it is to compel a cribber to stop it. There

are several devices to prevent the indulgence in cribbing and wind-sucking, but all of them are effective only for the time being, and often do much more damage to the animal than is done by the exercise of the bad habit itself. The most frequently applied instrument of torture is a strap tightly buckled around the neck of the horse. That its effect necessarily is injurious may not need any explanation. So far all devices have failed to effect a cure, except in the first beginning, when constant employment will often prevent the development of the bad habit.

Has Once Aborted.—E. S. P., Poplar Mount, Va. Although it often happens that a mare, which once lost her colt (aborted), will lose it again if used for breeding, that is not by any means always the case, and I would most decidedly advise you to again breed your mare, notwithstanding that she lost her colt two years ago, because, according to your statements, she is otherwise endowed with all the qualifications of a good brood-mare. It may be advisable, though, to wait until she has been a week or ten days on pasture.

Heaves.—S. B. L., Woodstock, N. Y. Heaves, or broken wind, may be defined as a chronic, feverish and incurable difficulty of breathing. This definition, I think, will answer your question. Of course, the case will become worse if the original causes—feeding musty and dusty hay is one of the most frequent ones—are allowed to continue to act, and some improvement, but not a cure, can be effected if but very little rough food, such as hay, etc., is given to the affected animal, if the bowels of the same are never allowed to become costive, and if the stable is kept cool and well ventilated.

Prolapsus of the Vagina.—T. C., Wheatland, Wyo. If your cow suffers from prolapsus of the vagina see that she does not get very much rough or bulky food during the last three or four months before calving; that she has a stall in which the floor is not any lower behind than in front, and that she is allowed as much exercise as circumstances will permit. What you feed less of rough food (hay, etc.) you will have to make up with concentrated food, such as grain, bran, etc. If a prolapsus occurs, do as you did before, wash the prolapsed parts with clean, warm water, and effect a reposition. Such a case is somewhat troublesome, but not dangerous if properly attended to.

A Lame Cow.—J. W. T., Grant, Tenn. In your description, which is rather meager in giving any essential symptoms, you contradict yourself, and say in one place that your cow was taken lame in one fore foot, seemed more like gravel in a horse's foot than anything else, and further on you say that her feet are not sore, and there are no "gravelis" or anything else between them. It is, therefore, impossible to make a diagnosis from your description. May be that the lameness, or perhaps stiffness, is of a rheumatic character, and that the cow is kept in a wet, not overclean and ily ventilated place. If such is the case, change this and put her in good, dry and clean quarters, or send her to a good pasture.

Sucks Herself.—J. C., McCutchenville, Ohio. If your cow attends to her own milking (sucks herself), it is easy to spoil her fun. Have her a halter made with a rather hard, leathern nose-band provided with two rows of sharp nails arranged in such a way that those of the lower row stick out outward and slightly downward, and those of the upper row outward and slightly upward. With such a halter on your cow will soon cease to be her own milkmaid. It sometimes also happens that a cow does not suck herself, but allows another cow to milk her. In such a case the other animal that does the sucking must be adorned with the nail-halter, and then the cow that is sucked will give her such a kicking that the sucking will not be attempted any more as long as the sucker wears the halter.

Probably a Case of So-called Ringworm.—A. L. L., Solon Springs, Wis. What you describe appears to be a case of so-called ringworm. Paint the scabby spots with tincture of iodine, or wash them with a five-per-cent solution of carbolie acid, say once a day, but see to it that nothing of the tincture or the acid gets into the eyes. This treatment will effect a cure, provided you also clean and thoroughly disinfect the place where the cattle are kept, and thus prevent an immediate reinfection and a new outbreak of the same ailment. If you should find that, contrary to your opinion, the lice are at fault, wash your cattle either with a good tobacco decoction or with a three to five per cent solution of creolin in water, and repeat the wash inside of a week. But in this case, too, it will be necessary after each wash to thoroughly clean the place where the cattle are kept.

A Good Subject for the Mallein Test.—J. O. E., Charleston, W. Va. It does not proceed from your description that your eight-year-old mare has glanders, and I do not say that she has, but such a one-sided (left-sided) chronic discharge from the nose (you say "chronic nasal catarrh") is always a suspicious symptom, which calls for a thorough examination and a sure diagnosis. For this reason I say that your mare is a good subject for the mallein test, which will sooner than anything else decide whether you have to deal with a case of chronic catarrh or with a case of glanders. There are other means to arrive at a decision; for instance, the inoculation of a guinea-pig with the discharges from the nose of the suspected horse, but they require more time. If, however, ulcers of a chancreous character can be seen on the septum (cartilaginous partition) of the nose, the diagnosis is secured and further tests are superfluous.

Incomplete Paralysis.—W. M. R., Mountain Grove, Mo. What you call lameness appears to be an incomplete paralysis, or an inability of the motory muscles to properly perform their functions, as is shown by your remark that your sow when lifted upon her feet and attempting to walk, crosses her legs; but it does not proceed from your inquiry whether the inability is the result of some morbid process going on in the muscles themselves, or whether the same is a true paralysis, and caused by a morbid condition of the spinal cord, or of the motory nerves, disahling them to perform their functions. If you will consult the answers recently given to similar questions, you will find that partial paralysis may be produced by quite a number of different causes. If in your case the cause of the partial paralysis is in the muscles themselves, time and good care probably will effect some improvement, and if the seat of the paralysis is in the spinal cord or its membranes, and no improvement has taken place when this reaches you, the case may be considered as a hopeless one.

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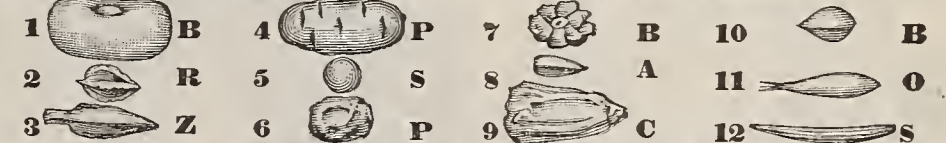
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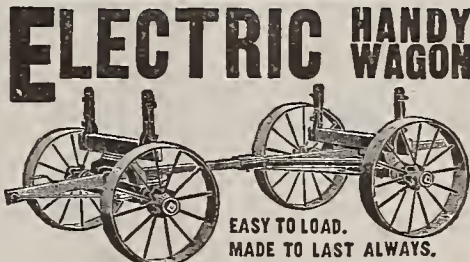
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Our Fireside.

YOUR HEART AND MY HEART.

Your heart and my heart,
And both of them beating as one:
Glad as the flowers that drink of the showers
And turn their sweet smiles to the sun.
And so shall the twain in loves concord remain
Till life's joyous journey is done;
Your heart and my heart,
And both of them beating as one.

Your hand and my hand,
And each in the clasp of a friend;
Love's pledge written deep in our breasts we shall keep
No matter what Fortune may send.
Arm in arm we shall stray down life's beautiful way
To the pillow of dreams at the end;
Your hand and my hand,
And each in the clasp of a friend.

—Nixon Waterman, in L. A. W. Bulletin.

A TRUE KNIGHT OF LABOR

BY KATE TANNATT WOODS.

Author of "A Fair Maid of Marlehead," "The Wooing of Grandmother Grey," "Hidden for Years," "The Minister's Secret," "Hester Hepworth," "Sophia Blount, Spinster," "Six Little Rebels," "Dr. Dick," "Mopsy," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER I.

AT THE WORKS.

SMOKE and flame issued in almost equal quantities from the huge chimneys of "The Great Bubble Iron Works;" and bright sparks flew high in the air against the blackness of the midnight sky.

The night men were at work, and business was prospering with the company. Inside the works a group of men were taking their midnight supper; and several tin pails were huddled together on some lumps of hot ore, heating the tea or coffee which might help the men to endure the hard labor yet to come.

One of the group, a tall, broad-chested man, with the arms of a Hercules and a head which might well make him the envy of any one possessed of even a slight knowledge of physiognomy, was filling a tin cup with coffee, while his comrades swallowed theirs with greed, and alternated the drink with large pieces of bread bitten off with the eagerness of hungry animals.

"The gal is asleep, Joe; leave her alone," said one of the men, with his mouth half full of bread; "you're too soft, old man; too soft to live."

"Yes, let her go," said another of the group; "she's no call on you, anyway, they say, and there would be the devil to pay if the Snpe should see her here."

Joe's smile could not be seen in the darkness, and his words were few.

"She is tired, and cold, and hungry," said he of the shapely head, "and I will just rouse her for a warm drink."

He went into a dark corner, now well shaded by the closed furnaces, and stooping down, raised a little figure from its dirty bed of black earth and held the cup to the lips of a little girl.

"Drink it, Meg dear," he said, tenderly, "drink it all, and here is a hite of bread; there, now, you shall rest and sleep again; wait a bit; let me smooth the old coat under your head."

The child did as she was told and said, in a sleepy voice: "Thank you, Uncle Joe; it is warm and nice here, and I am so sleepy; but don't forget to take me home with you."

"That won't be for hours yet, little one; sleep on, and I will look after you."

"Thank you, dear Uncle Joe."

The man returned to his companions.

"Well, how is the kid?" asked Riggs, the heavier of the two.

"All right, and grateful," said the man called Joe.

"Well, she may be; a cutting short of your rations. I say, Joe, get quit of her; put her in some charity place. You're too soft, you are; always getting imposed upon."

"Yes, Joe, my woman says she thinks the law covers such like, and you may get a trip up, or something; you're gullible, that's what you are, Joe; just gullible; a-believing the yarn that Smithers told you; he's in jail and he ought to be; you know yourself he let his temper get the best of him, and why should you put yourself out to care for a kid that is no kin to you, and you don't know where she belongs."

"Because, boys, I was once a kid myself," said Joe, quietly, "and I have known how it seems to want bread and to be lonely, and neglected, and even misrepresented."

"Oh, well, if you are going to do the pious act, why, all right," said Riggs; "but I tell you, you are no finer stuff than the rest of us, if you can lift a whale. If you want to be safe, just you put the girl in the work-house and look out for yourself; suppose we have a shut-down, eh, Joe?"

"Suppose we do?"

"Well, how can you feed and care for her then?" asked Riggs.

"Or suppose you took sick," said Daney.

The fourth man, a low-browed, black-eyed man, of short, stunted figure, now spoke for the first time. His speech betrayed his nationality.

"Or if ze little one make sick, and zen you have much trouble; children are no good. You go to ze man Smithers in ze jail and you say, 'I breck mine promise; I no longer take ze care, and ze Sisters of Mercy zey will keep ze child, and all is well.'"

"Thank you, Frenchy, for your advice," said Joe, as he wiped his heated brow and prepared again for his labor.

The light from an open pot fell on his face as he turned around and at the same timetwo gentlemen appeared, seemingly out of the dark background. One of them carried a note-book and pencil, and the other was engaged in showing him about. Joe recognized Mr. Carroll, the chemist, or "test tally," as the hands called him.

"Almost ready to draw off, eh, Joe?" said Mr. Carroll.

"Nearly ready, sir," was the reply.

"I want my friend to see the process, and would you mind showing him that queer formation which you took out on Monday?"

"You are welcome to it," said Joe, as he went into a dark spot near the sleeping child and brought out a piece of slag which closely resembled a human face.

"Let us get it out of him. Why, man, I might get up a story that would lift me up a dozen pegs at the office."

"No one can get a word out of Joe, beyond comments concerning his duties," said Carroll, with a smile. "He has shown so much kindness to the boys when they have been injured, and has given so generously to those in need, that he goes by the name of 'Gullible Joe.' A few of the boys labor under the delusion that he is easily imposed upon, but I happen to know better."

"Oh, he is only one of the fellows who have seen better days," said the reporter, lightly; "run through a fortune, got into some scrape, or been kicked out by his governor; I find them everywhere."

"Not like Joe, friend Benson; he has too much sand for such escapades. Excuse me while I make the tests of this drawing, and then come up to my office for a rest."

Mr. Carroll worked silently for some time, while the reporter watched the seething world below the glass inclosure called an "office."

"Well, what do you think of it," asked Mr. Carroll, as Benson sat gazing intently forward.

"I think that it comes nearest to the old idea of Hades of anything that I ever encountered."

"That room yonder goes by that name in pure Saxon. The men call it Hell," said Carroll. "Here comes Joe with some ore for

"I will come if I can," said Carroll, "but a rise means hard work for me, and there is the dear mother to work for."

He stopped abruptly and exclaimed: "Good heavens, there's another accident: they never come singly; a man burned only two days ago."

Carroll did not wait to explain, but hurried down the steps which led to his office just in time to see Joe reach the injured man.

Both feet were shockingly burned, and his groans of agony could not be stifled by the noise of the workmen and the furnaces.

As usual, Joe knew exactly what to do.

"That is right, Joe; look after him," said Carroll; "take him to the Emergency as fast as you can; don't let the cold air strike him. You shall be well cared for my man," said Carroll, as the poor sufferer was borne out.

CHAPTER II.

LITTLE MEG.

"Poor devil," said Carroll, as he hurried back to his work. "He cannot speak our language, and it won't hurt him a bit less to know that his own blundering carelessness caused it. The new men are reckless. What are you doing, Benson? For the love of mercy don't make a newspaper yarn out of this; it riles the chief from center to circumference to have the papers get hold of anything wrong down here. I might be compelled to refuse you admittance if it were known that you belonged to that misjudged, much-maligned and hard-working fraternity called 'reporters.'"

"You do us proud, Carroll. We are wonderfully human, after all. Good-by, and don't forget our dinner."

True to his word Joe cared faithfully for the injured man, and it was broad day before he left the hospital. His first thought was for little Meg. He had smiled when she had asked him not to forget her, and yet he had left her sleeping. He hurried towards the works as fast as possible.

He did not see any one he knew; and then he remembered that it was past his usual breakfast-hour. How stupid he was. Of course Riggs, who hoarded at Mrs. Maloney's, had taken the child home. He had a kind heart, notwithstanding his roughness of speech. Without entering the door Joe retraced his steps and went to the "Castle." Mrs. Maloney met him at the door. "Where is Meg?" he asked, eagerly.

"Shure, I've not seen her; Mr. Riggs was tellin' us how she took on for you, and would wait for you there by the door until you should come."

"And Riggs?"

"In bed and snorin' by now, sir. But there's breakfast waitin' fer you."

"I must go back for the child," said Joe; "I need to get the ether out of my lungs before I eat. I'll be back soon."

Joe tramped away over the frozen ground even faster than he had done before. He hurried past the time-clerk with an excuse of something forgotten, and went to the spot where he had left Meg. She was not there. No one had seen her, and he was just leaving the building with frantic haste, determined to visit the police department at once, when one of the day hands accosted him.

"If you are looking for the child that's stopping with you, I may be able to help you; I don't forget who helped me when I was cut down."

"Oh, Duffy, man, how are you? Tell me, where is that poor child?"

"Well, Mr. Joe, I've seen a man hangin' around for two days when I was coming to work, and he took off the child."

"Heaven help me, what have I done?" exclaimed Joe. "Tell me all, Duffy, and quickly. How did he look? What did he wear? What did the child say? Tell it, man, for more depends on it than you think."

"He was a tallish man, smooth-faced, and he wore gloves, kind of yellow gloves, like the president's son. I thought maybe he was one of the new bookkeepers, kind of looking round, until I saw him speak to your little kid, and then I got a little nearer and he was talking to her, and I heard him say: 'Oh, yes, your Uncle Joe is a dear friend of mine.'"

"And then she stopped crying, and says:

"'Did he send you to take me home to Mrs. Maloney's?'"

"The man says, 'Yes, and we must hurry, too; he is waiting for us.'"

"Would you know the man again, if you were to see him?"

"I should know him anywhere, Joe; for there was a look in his eyes when he said that you was a dear friend that I didn't like, and I was half minded to step up and put in a word; but I said to myself 'maybe it's one of Joe's city friends, and kin to the child; and I best mind my own affairs.'"

"Duffy, I would give all I own if you had throttled him then and there. Say nothing of this to any one until you have seen me again. There is a big wrong being done to a friend of mine, and if I can put it right I will do it at the risk of my life."

"God speed you, Joe," said Duffy, "and I wish the works had more of your metal."

Joe hurried home and washed himself and changed his clothing before he again saw Mrs. Maloney. He wrote a long letter, also packed a small, well-worn grip, and then called his landlady.



"DRINK IT, MEG DEAR," HE SAID, TENDERLY.

"What a fine-looking fellow," remarked the man with the note-book.

"Yes, he is fine, too; all sorts drift in here; Hungarians, Italians, French and a few unfortunate Englishmen, and Yaukees who are true gentlemen."

"It must be a hard life," said the visitor; "going from this intense heat to the winter air outside is a tremendous change."

"It is cruelly hard. Do you see those fellows yonder? Watch them for a few moments, then come with me. Those men go straight from the fiery furnace to this cooling-shed outside with no protection but the roof over their heads. You shiver with a thick coat to turn up about your throat and chest; they are only clad in a shirt, thrown back, and woolen trousers."

"How can they endure it?"

"They don't; hundreds die of pneumonia, and others are crippled up with rheumatism in a short time."

"And must that superb-looking athlete we saw—your Joe yonder—submit to this?"

"Not quite; he is a first-class man, and we rely on him for tests, although he has been here but a short time, only a few months. I want him in my office, but the company has not acceded to the request yet."

"I like his looks immensely; even in this fiendish light and darkness. What is his other name?"

"I should have to refer to the pay-roll for that," said Mr. Carroll. "He is simply Joe to me; I have a fancy that he has a history, if he would tell it."

me; now look at that chest and the poise of the head; I verily believe that the man has pulled in a college crew by the way he carries himself."

"Or was trained at West Point," said Benson.

"No, not there," said Carroll, with a laugh; "fine notions and a fine bearing are part of the education at the Point, and the last place for one of them to turn up would be in a paudemonium like this."

"Look up his name, will you?" asked Benson. "Certainly; Thorpe," he said, turning to a clerk, "just give me Joe's name in full, will you? Night hand, register four, I think."

"Yes, sir," said Thorpe, promptly, as he turned over a large pile of books upon the table behind him. "It is Joseph Rivington, sir, first-class workman, good knowledge of ore, wages—"

"Never mind that part, Thorpe; that is the company's affair. There, Benson, your hero is named."

"A good name, too," said the reporter; "do you know, I have a fancy that I shall run across that man again some day."

"Of course you will; you newspaper men are ubiquitous; there is something uncanny about you; you are forever turning up in unexpected places."

"Come, don't be hard on us because I happened to turn up in Hades, where you are employed. I thank you all the same for showing me about. Shall I see you at the alumni dinner, old boy? You cut us last year."

"Will you do me a favor?" he said.
 "A dozen, if you will, sir."
 "Little Meg has been carried away by a stranger. I must find her. Keep the boys quiet by saying I have gone on a journey, and let no one enter my room. Here is the money for two weeks' rent, and here is a letter for Mr. Carroll at the works. Trust it to no one. Put it in his hands yourself, to-night, when he goes on duty, and keep a still tongue when the men talk. I must hurry; good-by. When I return you shall be well paid for your trouble."

"Wait for a bite to eat, sir?"
 "I can wait for nothing." Joe hurried out and went at once to the police-station. The settlement at the works necessitated the establishment of a special station there, with a strong force of efficient men to deal with the foreigners, who now numbered thousands.

The head of the department was a man of great executive ability. He knew Joe, and liked him; he had found him useful in quelling some incipient riots, because he not only understood what the captain called their "gibberish," but was one of the workers, and respected by the men. He was in the captain's private room for nearly an hour, and when he came out Joe's face looked brighter than when he entered. Fifteen minutes later Joe was at the window of the railway-station purchasing a ticket, when a man in police uniform touched his shoulder and said in a low tone: "From the captain, sir."

Joe took the note given him and retired into a corner to read it. Troubled as he was, he smiled while reading the brief message, "All points covered; railway, river and roads. See S. and get accurate description of suspect." Joe tore a leaf from a note-book which he always carried, and wrote: "Will go direct to Prison Point. Look out for a short woman with bleached hair, now in the station."

CHAPTER III. A LOST CHILD.

"Have you got her?"
 "Yes; give her the drug, will you? She asks too many questions."

"You remember his orders."
 "To the devil with his orders. It is only paregoric; and I have had a time of it with her tongue. If I had my way all brats should be born speechless until of age."

"If you had your way some would not be born at all," responded his companion.

Between the two men, in a close carriage, sat little Meg.

She could not understand a word of their conversation; they were talking in French. But the changed tone and manner of the man who had called himself Joe's friend frightened her. As soon as they had left the roadway he had dragged her on without mercy, and spoken crossly to her. She was trembling with dread.

"Shall I soon get to Uncle Joe?" she asked, timidly.

"Yes, in a few moments."
 "This is not the way to Mrs. Maloney's," she again said, as some trees brushed the carriage window.

"Shut up, will you," said the dear friend. The man who had refused to produce the drug which was to be used only in utmost need, said in a softer tone than his companion: "This is a new road, child."

"The new road to the hospital on the hill?" she said. "Oh, I know; Uncle Joe showed it to me only yesterday, and that is where he is. Riggs said some one was hurt, and he had gone there."

The "dear friend" laughed; and again the child shuddered and sat thinking. She recalled the words of Uncle Joe on the day before about the bad dreams; they seemed to be all coming again, and she must say her little prayer and not be afraid. She said it over and over. "Dear Father in heaven, protect me, and keep me from harm!" She was hungry and thirsty, but did not complain. At last the carriage stopped and she was lifted out and carried into a bouse where it looked very bright and pleasant, and a stout woman with a small lace cap on the top of her head greeted her. "Come with me, child; your face is fairly striped with dirt and tears; come and he washed and then you shall have a nice lunch."

"Is Uncle Joe here?" asked Meg.
 "No; there is no one here but the cook and myself, but I have some pretty dresses for you, and you must look fine and nice before your papa comes."

"I haven't any papa," said Meg, sorrowfully. "I don't want a papa, and—and—I want Uncle Joe; he is all I have."

Her lips quivered painfully, and before the woman realized her intent, she threw herself upon a sofa and wept bitterly.

"There, there, child, don't take on that way; here is a fine home and I will be kind to you, and perhaps Uncle Joe will come some day."

The two men who had brought little Meg having performed the task for which they were engaged, drove rapidly away by a circuitous route, and soon separated. The woman tried in vain to soothe her little charge, but the child grew more and more hysterical.

"Come, honey," said the woman, "come, now, let me tell you about my little girl that went away so long ago, and then you shall have something warm and nice to eat and the very prettiest dolls you ever saw to play with."

Still the child moaned, and said between her sobs: "Oh, Uncle Joe, the bad dreams will come, and I need you, I need you."

"This is a bad case," said the woman, "and a puzzle, too. I must look at my written orders." She unlocked a small desk in the room and took out a letter. It was addressed to "Mrs. Golden, Nurse," and was carefully penned. These words, heavily underscored, attracted her attention: "I learn that my little patient, for whom you are to care with the utmost kindness, is the victim of a certain form of hysteria, owing to a great fright and a serious illness when much younger. Should she be so troubled while with you, please give her one of the inclosed pills, and after a sound sleep the best and most nourishing food. Indulge her in every way, save seeing people; she must not see any one, save yourself, for some time. Her life is of the utmost importance. Guard it jealously. I will visit her as frequently as possible, but must see her at night, as the presence of a strange face might affect her unfavorably."

"That is all clear," said Mrs. Golden, "but how odd it is that the doctor does not sign his name."

After several struggles Meg was induced to swallow the medicine disguised in milk, and a little later Mrs. Golden was rejoiced to see that her excitement was abating. She took her in her arms and rocked her as tenderly as if she were an infant. All her long years of patient toil as a nurse had not hardened her heart, and as the child sank into a profound slumber the woman laid her down and covered her with rugs, saying softly: "Just think, if it was my Allie, my little Allie; poor dear, she shan't want for kindness from Mary Golden."

The child slept for nearly three hours, and when she opened her eyes she at once asked for "Uncle Joe."

"He is not here yet, honey; but never mind, you are to have some nice chicken and toast with me, and then you shall wear one of the pretty frocks I have for you; and we will look at the dolls, real babies, almost, with truly hair and pretty eyes."

Meg was weak and languid after all her strange experience, and she quietly submitted to the attentions of her new friend. When a tray was placed before her she ate with the zest of a growing child and wished to know if Uncle Joe had sent all the nice things.

"I suppose so," said Mrs. Golden, not knowing what to say, for in reality she was quite ignorant of the unknown provider as Meg herself. All the orders she had received had emanated from the gentleman who called himself "the family physician." She had received a liberal offer to take charge of an unfortunate child, and the villa of a family now in Europe had been offered by a relative. It was a pretty spot, almost concealed by trees and far removed from other habitations. The doctor had written that his eccentric friend who owned the property had reasons of his own for wishing it to be considered vacant, and therefore its neglected condition would not be disturbed, and no man would be kept about the premises. He had sent his own French cook, he said, to minister to the wants of the small household, and the one thing demanded of Mrs. Golden was complete secrecy as to her present duties.

"Do you belong to Uncle Joe?" asked Meg, as she finished her repast.

"Do I look so?"
 "You speak like him," said Meg, "so kind and quiet."

Mrs. Golden smiled. "It would be a hard heart that wouldn't be kind to a child," said she; "any one who has had children of their own must be kind."

"Uncle Joe hasn't any children," said Meg.
 "How long have you lived with Uncle Joe, honey?"

"I cannot tell; it is only a little while, I think; but I love him, and he helps me to forget the bad dreams."

"Where did you first see Uncle Joe, honey?"
 "Sometimes it seems a long while, and sometimes one place, and then another. I came back from a long way, where I was sick where those had people lived who hurt me, and then I cried and cried, and somebody gave me to Uncle Joe and said he would be my best friend and to mind him, and the dreams would not come again."

"And what did Uncle Joe say?"

"He said that I must be a good girl and some day I should go to a nice home where the people would be kind to me and the dreams would go away. He told me to say the prayer I said in the carriage, every day, and God would be my father and care for me. Do you think he will come soon?"

"I hope so, child; I should like to see him myself."

That night little Meg fell asleep with Mrs. Golden's arms about her, and when that good woman felt sure that her dreams were pleasant, because her breathing had grown natural, she slipped away and began to remodel a little frock which she wished Meg to wear in the morning; a dainty creation which had arrived with others in a box sent for her patient. The task recalled such pleasant memories of little Allie, that the nurse lingered over it until she was startled by a peal of the door-bell. She recovered herself instantly, and taking a lighted candle went slowly down the stairs.

[To be Continued.]

BREAD CAST UPON THE WATERS.

BY HOPE DARING.

A DAY late in June. The fields had not yet lost the fresh green tints of early summer, although a shimmering heat seemed to fill the air, and not a breath of wind stirred the leaves upon the trees. All day, in Laurence Grant's meadows, the wagons had been heaped high with sweet, new-cured hay. Within the great barn the air was heavy with the fragrance of the grass. Mechanically the hay-fork descended and rose, storing away in the dusky space under the eaves the well-earned fruits of the farmer's toil.

Laurence Grant was a farmer, born and bred. Notwithstanding his satisfaction at the amount and prime condition of the crop gathered under such favorable circumstances, a cloud rested upon his face. It was still there when the day's labor was ended, and he made his way to the little south porch where his wife waited for him.

Helen Grant was a slender little woman, with a fair face and child-like blue eyes. As her husband sat down by her side, she slipped one hand in his, and asked:

"Are you very tired, dear? Too tired to write to-night?"

The deep-set, black eyes of Laurence Grant wavered over the fields flooded with the last crimson rays of the setting sun for the space of two minutes. Then he questioned, a defiant ring in his voice.

"What shall I write?"

"Tell Eric to come at once."

Another brief silence. Then Laurence said, gravely, "Can we afford it, Helen? Heaven knows I do not want to be unkind; my first duty is to be just to my family. Can we, bampere with a big debt and with three little ones of our own, give a home and proper care to this crippled boy, the son of my dead cousin?"

Helen nodded her head. "I think we can, my husband. Think if our dear girls were left alone in the world, as this poor boy is! The fact that he is a cripple makes my heart yearn over him."

A softer light came into the face of Helen Grant's husband. "Motherhood glorifies a true woman," he said, reverently. "I thought of his condition only as one that would make him more dependent. Well, little wife, it shall be as you say. I will write Eric Strang that he is to come."

Twelve years before, when Helen and Laurence were married, they settled on the farm that had been Helen's home from childhood. The debt mentioned had been then contracted, the money having been obtained to pay off the other heirs. Their married life had been a happy one, although they had never been able to more than pay the annual interest—two hundred dollars—on the mortgage.

In his boyhood, Laurence had had a young cousin, of whom he was very fond. She married a Norwegian, a strange man devoted to music and literature. Laurence had not heard from them in years, until a letter came from their son, Eric. He stated that his mother had been dead five years, while his father had just been buried. The lad was fourteen, and a cripple. With his dying breath Mr. Straug had hidden his son put himself under the care of his mother's only near relative.

Eric arrived a week later. Laurence drove to Hilyard to meet him, and felt his balf prejudice vanish as he looked into the thin, blonde face. Eric was pale; his features betokened a refined and sensitive nature, and his voice was peculiarly low and sweet.

Helen was waiting on the porch when they drove up. Around her were clustered her daughters. Nellie, an eleven-year-old miniature of her mother; Louise, two years younger, with a saucy, scarlet mouth and merry black eyes, and Maidie, who was five, fair and plump.

The mother hastened down the steps to meet the boy, who, supported on one crutch, came slowly forward. She put her arms around him, and said:

"Welcome home, Eric."

The kind words were too much for the homeless youth. He tried in vain to speak, but could only cling to this new friend.

"These little girls of mine have always wanted a brother," she went on, tactfully giving him time to regain his composure. "They are waiting now to adopt and love you."

So Eric found a home and friends. He had brought with him a case of his father's books, a curiously carved and inlaid writing-desk, and a violin. On the night of his arrival he put a package into Mr. Grant's hands.

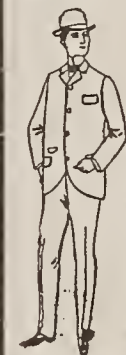
"That is all the money there is left, sir. I want to pay my board, and when it is gone perhaps I will be strong enough to work."

Laurence counted the money. There was three hundred dollars.

"This must be put on interest for you, Eric," he said. "As for your board, my boy, you don't know much about a farm if you think you cannot earn the little you eat in a dozen different ways."

Eric was very happy at Grant Farm. The little girls soon grew fond of him, and he returned their affection. He played on the violin, for his father had himself taught him. Music awakened a strange look in the boy's eyes; a look of longing and unrest.

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Helen used to shake her head. "Come, Eric," she would say. "the Nixy is calling you. Don't listen. Come back to Grant farm, and to us who love you far better than does that sprite."

Eric would lay down his violin with a laugh. Helen had told the children the Norse legend of the Nixy of the lost Chord. With an intuition far beyond his years, the lad understood that there was a strange likeness between the unattainable for which the elf strove and the unwholesome day-dreams of his lonely childhood. Aunt Helen was right; the cheery home-life of the present was far better.

The years sped by. When Eric arrived at the farm he was far in advance of the district school at Hilyard, so he finished his education by study at home. Laurence wished him to attend school at Hilyard, but the lad protested that the home study suited him better. Nellie and Louise each went there for two years, and graduated. A piano was purchased, for their father could not hear the thought that his precious daughters must be deprived of anything needed for their mental improvement or happiness.

Only one cloud obscured the brightness of their sky—the mortgage. They had never been able to more than pay the interest, and every year it was harder to do this. It was not alone the additional expenses of the family; Laurence Grant was learning that always taking from a farm and never adding to it soon brought trouble.

Eric had developed a totally unexpected liking for the farm and its management. He had grown so much stronger that he could exchange his crutch for a cane for the greater part of the day. He was of much assistance, and often endeavored to show Mr. Grant the mistake he was making in selling so much stock, grain and hay every fall.

"But I must have that two hundred dollars on the first day of October," Laurence would say, despondently. "Of course, it would enable me to fertilize my land could I keep more stock, as you propose, but I can't do it. As to the other notions of yours, Eric—small fruit, vegetables and poultry—my word for it, they are better on paper than elsewhere."

Eric flushed a little. It had not much surprised the Grant's when he made his debut in the literary world, but his choice of agricultural subjects was a family joke. They were proud of his success, and rejoiced with him when he began to receive modest sums of money from different farm papers.

Eric had been with them ten years when the first real trouble came. The men were cutting corn one delightful September day, when the air began to have that crispness that told of the coming of the Frost King. Helen and her daughters were busy preparing supper when Eric came hurrying, as fast as his lameness would permit, up the path from the barn.

"What is it, Eric?" Mrs. Grant asked, alarmed by the look upon his face.

"Nothing serious, I trust. Uncle Laurence is ill, and we have brought him to the house."

Just then the swiftest horse on the farm went out of the yard on a sharp trot. Helen Grant's heart sank. Eric had sent in haste for the doctor. She controlled herself, however, and hurried out to meet the men who were carrying her husband to his home.

"Paralysis!" was the doctor's verdict. "He will recover, but it will take months. He must be spared all anxiety, and receive the best care."

Drury days followed. Days in which Helen Grant seemed to have no thought for aught save the helpless, speechless wreck for which she cared so tenderly. To her he was all he had ever been—her lover, her husband; the father of her children. More than all the rest—he had never needed her as then.

Eric assumed every care. His face grew thin and grave. At last he summoned the girls to a conference in their old trysting-place, the pleasant upper room where he read and wrote.

"The interest is past due, but Mr. Coburn says we may have a month more," he began. "Your mother must not be worried. I want to do something more than sell off the available property; I want to make it easier to raise the money next year. If you girls think it best for me to try, I am sure I can do this."

Nellie was sitting in an old rocker, and pretty Maide was perched on the arm of the chair. Louise stood in front of a western window, her grave face turned to Eric, while the glories of the sunset behind her threw her slender figure into strong relief.

Eric looked at her thoughtfully. He turned his head aside for a moment, then told his plan. He purposed to draw enough of his own money—nearly doubled by Mr. Grant's care—to pay the interest. This would enable him to feed the stock through the winter. He also proposed to buy fifty young hens to add to those on the farm, and grew quite enthusiastic over the profits he hoped to make.

"In fact, girls," he said, in conclusion, "I have not the strength to farm as your father has. Of course, my way will be an experiment. Shall I try it?"

Louise advanced and laid her hand in his without a moment's hesitation. "Yes, try it, Eric. I know you will succeed."

His slender brown hand closed firmly over hers. "Thank you, Louise. I will succeed—for your sake."

Did she understand? The rose-pink in her cheeks flushed brighter, but she said:

"I am going to-morrow morning to see if the school-board will not hire me to teach the school this winter. That will help."

Nellie sprang up and threw her arms around her sister. "You darling! I know I can get music scholars, both in Hilyard and in the country. When we were children, Eric, I used to think you would win fame for yourself, and fortune for us all, with your music. But you are doing something better, you are helping us help ourselves, even if the work is something of a sacrifice for you."

"What can I do?" Maide asked. "I must do something."

"Yes," Louise nodded, sagely. "You were to commence school at Hilyard after the holidays. You can study at home with us, save your board and tuition, and help mama. It's going to be a busy winter for us all, and the little mother must not be overworked."

It was a busy winter. Louise obtained the coveted position at thirty dollars a month for four months, and the promise of the spring term if she "gave satisfaction." Nellie soon had twenty pupils, and the position as organist in one of the Hilyard churches.

Helen aroused herself to listen to their explanations of the need of this new work. She thanked heaven for her children, and went back to the room where her heart was.

"I wonder we never thought of doing these things to help before," Nellie said, thoughtfully. "And we would not have thought now, if it had not been for Eric."

Eric found that the stock and fowls kept his hands busy, but his brain had opportunity for more plans. When spring came he sold the cattle Mr. Grant had planned to sell the fall before, reserving two cows, which would make a difference in the amount of butter sold. He wisely "let out" the greater part of the land, boldly resolving to devote his time to raising vegetables for the city market.

The girls applauded and helped. Nellie kept her pupils, and Louise was hired for the spring term, and also for the following year. Aided by Maide, they spent all possible time assisting Eric, and grew brown and merry while pulling weeds.

Health slowly but surely came back to their father. When the existing state of affairs was explained to him, it was easy to see that he feared the outcome, although he warmly thanked Eric for his efforts, which he knew were prompted by a sincere love for himself and family.

October came again. The interest was promptly paid, and three hundred dollars upon the principal. Besides this, Eric was able to put out half an acre to berries, and to build convenient yards for his poultry.

Two years after this time Laurence Grant was able to resume a part of his former duties. He was very glad to leave the entire management of the farm to Eric. One half the debt was paid, and the future promised a speedy canceling of the other half.

Nellie was about to be married, having kept up her work until that summer. Maide's long-deferred attendance upon the Hilyard High School had commenced, and so thorough had been her home preparation that it would require only one year for her to complete the course of study. Louise was still teaching in the home school, at an advance of five dollars a month.

The countenance of Helen Grant wore its olden look of serenity. God was very good to her.

One Saturday afternoon, late in September, Louise sat out after a basket of peaches for supper. On her way she passed Eric, who had just returned from Hilyard. He called Maide to carry the mail to the house, and joined the older girl.

The years had brought added loveliness to Louise's dark face. She carried her head proudly, and the steady gaze of her black eyes would have given one the impression of haughtiness, had it not been for the tender curves of her lips.

Eric's face was marked by lines of care and thought. He rejoiced in what he had been enabled to do for those so dear to him, but he keenly felt his physical deformity. This sunny afternoon, as he limped along by the side of the slender, erect girl, it was as if every time he brought his cane to the earth it struck his heart.

"Anything in particular in the mail?" Louise asked, carelessly.

"Yes." There was something so strange in his voice that the girl pushed back her wide-rimmed hat of coarse straw, to look intently in his face. "Yes, Louise. Sit down, and let me tell you about it."

They had reached the row of peach-trees which skirted the apple orchard. Without a word Louise sat down on the grass, throwing off her hat.

"It was a letter from Thomas, the editor-in-chief and manager of the 'Farmer's Guide,'" Eric began. "He offers me the charge of the departments of horticulture and poultry, at a fair salary."

"Oh, Eric, Eric, how glad I am!" and a look of joy radiated from Louise's dark eyes. "You deserve it all, and a thousand times more. But will you have to go away?"

He shook his head. "Thomas bids me stay on the farm. He says the fact that my articles are the results of real experiments gives them their greatest value."

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There was a moment's silence, a moment in which Eric kept his gaze averted from his companion's face, although he knew that she was watching him.

"Eric, what is it?" she asked softly. "Your eyes have what mama used to call the Nixy-look. Has not this new and more congenial work made you happy?"

He rose slowly. "Of course. It's set me to thinking over my past and future, though. Sometimes, Louise, I think it would have been better for me to have dreamed away my life with books and music, than to have entered the arena of action with other men."

"Better?" she repeated, incredulously. "What do you mean, Eric?"

He picked up his cane and held it toward her. "Better because of this, Louise. In one sense of the word, I may win. Yet this will ever debar me from stretching out my hand for the one thing I desire."

She, too, had risen. "What is that?" she asked.

He lifted one hand as if to ward off a blow, but she came close to him and repeated her question. "What is that one thing, Eric?"

"The love of woman. Think you I can ever offer the woman I love such a misshapen body as mine, even if my heart bursts with love for her? Do you understand, Louise?"

A wave of crimson stole slowly over her rounded cheek and throat. Her eyes fell. Yes, she understood.

They stood for a moment in silence. Louise was waiting, but when her companion did not speak, the flush faded and she grew very pale.

Suddenly she stooped and picked up the basket. "I must gather the peaches," she said, in a husky voice.

Still in silence he assisted her, pulling down the branches with the crooked end of his cane. The girl filled her basket with the velvety, crimson-cheeked fruit, asking herself if this was to be the end.

She turned and caught the cane from Eric's hand and, holding her head, rained kisses upon it.

"Louise, Louise, what do you mean?"

"I mean that to a woman who loved you, what you call your misshapen body would only render you dearer. It is souls that love, Eric!"

He did not speak. With compressed lips he stood, trying to think. Could he, dared he, accept the sweet hope her words brought him?

And Louise? Ah, it had been hard for her to break down the barrier of her woman's pride. Even now must the precious gift slip from her for the need of one more word?

She had laid one hand on his arm and raised her face to his. "Do you understand, Eric?"

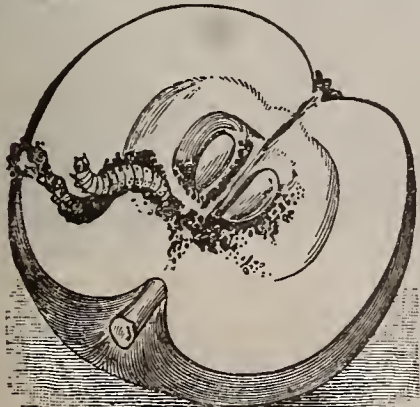
He caught her close in his arms, and bowed his head over her blushing face. "Yes, my darling, I understand."

DECORATION OF THE PANTHEON.

Once a church, after having been built as a memorial to the country's great men, "Aux graudes hommes las Patrie reconnaissante," and then again devoted to its original purpose, the Pantheon has until recently looked somewhat cold and bare. The defect is being gradually remedied. All around the walls are paintings of episodes of the National history, due to the brushes of the most eminent painters commissioned by the state to decorate the building. Statuary is now to be added, and M. Antonin Mercié has just finished the rough model of a huge group of the generals of the Revolution, which is ordered for the building, and will be placed in Ste. Genevieve's chapel. On the right are Marceau, Hoche and Desaix, grouped together; a little in the background on horseback is Bonaparte, who points to an army on the march, depicted in bas-relief, while beyond him is Carnot, "The Organizer of Victory." The whole is backed by a triumphal obelisk, from which is descending winged Liberty, bearing laurel wreaths. Another group, to represent the orators of the restored monarchy, is being prepared by M. Dalou.—London Post.

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

The question of spraying fruit trees to prevent the depredations of insect pests and fungus diseases is no longer an experiment but a necessity.



Our readers will do well to write Wm. Stahl, Quincy, Ill., and get his catalogue describing twenty-one styles of Spraying Outfits and full treatise on spraying the different fruit and vegetable crops, which may be had for the asking and contains much valuable information.

THE COY COYOTE.

"Speaking about smart animals," said the real-estate man, "I want to go on record as saying that there is no animal that can hold a candle to the coyote for smoothness. When I first went out to western Kansas I had an ambition to kill enough coyotes to make a lap robe to send back to my friends in the East. I tramped all over that country with a gun, but I never could get nearer than within a mile of a coyote. I used to drive out in my buggy, and hide the gun under the seat, but it didn't make any difference; not a coyote ever got near enough so that he could have been reached with anything short of a long-range cannon. One day I started out in a hurry and forgot my gun. I hadn't gone a mile from town until I ran onto a group of four coyotes. The critters didn't even take the trouble to lope off out of sight. They just walked off two or three rods from the road and sat down on their hunkers, and looked at me and yawned. It made me hot to see their infernal impudence, and I made a dive as if I were going to get the gun out from under the seat. I thought sure I would scare them away. Well, maybe you wouldn't believe it, but those cussed coyotes never moved. They just sat up there and actually grinned. They said just as plain as if they had used the words: 'Oh, you needn't try to run any bluff on us; we are strictly onto our job.' How they knew I hadn't that gun I don't know, but I have always had great respect for the sense of a coyote ever since."—Kansas City Journal.

SALUTED THE RAINY-DAY SKIRT.

The rainy-day skirt has been accorded a lordly salute, and by one of Boston's most dignified and best-known citizens.

Early the last week, when the rain had been falling for over twenty-four hours, and the streets and cross-walks were in such a shape as to well nigh ruin an ordinary dress-skirt, unless the wearer held it up nearly to the knees, one of Boston's well-known women, dressed in a neat and well-fitting rainy-day costume, was returning from the Old Colony station, after bidding good-by to a friend. While walking erectly and freely across the Lincoln street crossing, where scores of other women were holding up one side of their skirts while the other side dragged in the mud, she was suddenly confronted by a middle-aged, courtly gentleman, who was an entire stranger to her, and lifting his hat he addressed her thus:

"I beg your pardon, madam, but a woman who has the good sense and courage to wear so comfortable and appropriate a costume on the street deserves the most respectful salute. I take off my hat to your short skirt."

"I thank you, sir," was the pleasant reply, "but if all women knew the comfort and cleanliness of such a garment, I am sure they would wear no other of such a day as this."

After this short dialogue the two persons passed on, the woman more than ever convinced that the future of the short skirt was fully assured, and the man made glad with the thought that the age of reason among women was making satisfactory strides.—Boston Herald.

FIRST RAILROAD TO THE ARCTIC.

The first railroad running to a port on the Arctic sea is the continuation of the Vologda railway in Russia, which is now finished to the port of Archangel, on the southeastern corner of the White sea and at the mouth of the River Dvina. This new line, which was opened some two weeks ago, is nearly 400 miles in length. The Vologda-Archangel railway passes for the most part through deserted or sparsely populated regions, or across "tundras" and marshes, which are sometimes fifty feet in depth. The whole nature of the country through which the new line passes was unfavorable to its construction. Marshes and patches of bogs and swamps to be filled in; the newly made embankments were continually giving way and had to be built up again till the necessary stability had been obtained. Six iron bridges and numerous bridges of wood were required. The wooden bridges are built upon piles, driven in some cases to a great depth beneath the surface. The new line is of military as well as commercial importance, for it must play a leading part in the opening of the northern provinces of Russia. It will furnish an outlet, for instance, for the deposits of petroleum which exist in northern Russia, but have not been worked on account of the lack of transportation.

REFLECTIONS ON LUCK.

Luck pictures a dollar, while work earns it. Hard luck is almost a synonym for laziness. Good luck is the twin brother of hard work. Luck walks, while work rides in a carriage. Luck dreams of a home, but work builds one.

To trust to luck is like fishing with a hookless line.

Luck is a disease for which hard work is the only remedy.

Luck longs for a dinner, while labor goes out and earns one.

Luck goes barefooted, while work never lacks for a pair of shoes.—The N. C. R.

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AMERICAN WOMEN

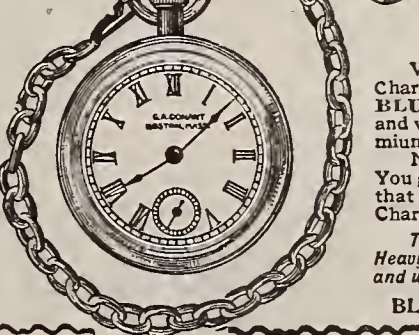
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Our Household.

WHEN MOTHER LOOKS.

I 'member such a lot of things
That happened long ago
When me and Jim was six years old,
An' now we're ten or so;
But those I remember best—
The ones I 'most can see—
Are the things that used to happen
When mother looked at me.

One time in church, when me and Jim
Was snickerin' out loud—
The minister was prayin' an'
The people's heads was bowed—
We had the biggest kind of joke
About a bumblebee;
But things got quiet rather quick
When mother looked at me.

An' then there's sometimes when I think
I've had such lots of fun
A-goin' in a-swimmin' with the boys
Down there by Jones' run;
But when I get back home again—
Just 'bout in time for tea—
There's a kind of a differ'nt feelin' comes
When mother looks at me.

That time when I was awful sick,
An' the doctor shook his head,
An' every time pa come around
His eyes was wet an' red,
I 'member her hands on my face;
How soft they used to be!
Somehow the pain seemed easier
When mother looked at me.

It's funny how it makes you feel,
I ain't afraid of her.
She's about the nicest person
You'd find most anywhere,
But the queerest sort of feelin',
As queer as queer can be,
Makes everything seem different
When mother looks at me.
—Letebworth Smith, in True Republic.

HOME TOPICS.

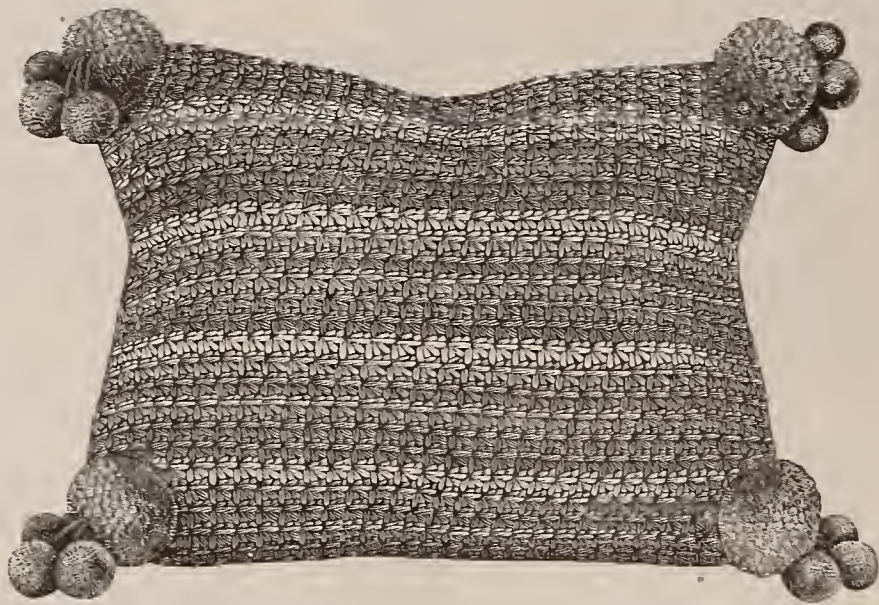
WASHING WOOLENS.—I have tried various ways of washing woolen blankets and other woolen goods, and the result of my experience is as follows: All woollens are best washed in very hot water, and never rubbed on a board. To wash blankets, make a strong suds of soft soap; to every quart of the suds add a teaspoonful of powdered borax. Have the suds hotter than the hand can bear; put in the blankets and turn and press them with wooden paddles. After stirring and pressing the blankets for fifteen minutes or more, lift them out, draining as much as possible, and put them into another tub of suds in which there is no borax, and which is diluted with a quart or two of hot water. If this second suds is not cool enough to bear the hand in, continue to lift and press with the paddles until you can use the hands, but do not rub, twist or wring. Flannels should not be dried in the bright sunshine, as that makes them harsh and stiff. They should be hung in the shade where there is a good current of air. A cloudy day, when there is a good breeze, is the best time to wash blankets. For colored woolen garments that are soiled with perspiration, etc., use a teaspoonful of ammonia to each quart of suds instead of the borax, and proceed as with blankets. For white woollens, baby flannels, etc., use the borax, and dry them by pressing with soft cloths before hanging them on the line, so they will dry quickly. Never hang flannels out of doors in freezing weather, and not too near a hot fire in the house.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS.—Amid all the talk for women's rights, which we hear on every hand, let me put in a plea for children's rights. There are no rights to which



a child is more certainly entitled than that of sound physical health and a sound education of both hand and brain. Childhood is the time to lay the foundation for future physical, moral and mental health. The questions of what the child shall eat, what it shall wear, and the conditions that shall surround it, are of vital importance. The child has a right to good, nourishing food, not sweets and a collection of indigestibles, but food that shall build up brain, bone and muscle. The child has a right to comfortable and healthful clothing, clean,

and as far as possible, dainty and pretty. The mental effects of clothing are often underestimated. I would not have a child's vanity fostered, but neither would I have the self-respect injured by subjecting him to the criticism and ridicule of his associates, if possible to prevent it. The child has a right to pure air and sunshine. Too often, both at home and at school, children are subjected to the dangers of vitiated air in close rooms, and by foul drains or other air-polluters, and of impure water. It is often the case that country homes, instead of being the most healthful, are surrounded by bad sanitary conditions. Last, but not the least important right of a child is his right to a sweet-tempered, patient, loving mother. A mother with a tired and overworked body is in no condition to endure the constant demands made upon her, and she becomes cross and irritable. Some mothers when they know this think it is sufficient excuse for cross words and hasty actions to say, "I was all tired out, and it made me cross." Others will grieve over it, pray over it, and yet permit the trouble to constantly recur. There is a sure remedy, and it lies close at hand. Let the mother find out what makes her cross, and avoid the cause. No mother has any right to give all her energy and life to work. It robs not only her children of their birthright, but herself of the best of life. This state of things can more frequently be prevented than is thought. Waste of the mother's strength is one of the worst of wastes, and wherever else



economy may be practiced let it not be in care of that most precious commodity, a mother's health and strength.

MAIDA McL.

CROCHETED COUCH-CUSHION.

A large down pillow is first procured and packed a little closer and fastened. The first row is crocheted in star-stitch, on a chain foundation with the darkest color. Four shades are used with great harmony. Large pom-pom balls finish the ends.

SPRING NOVELTIES.

When the leaves begin to put out and the stores begin to dress up the windows with all the pretty lace frivolities, it is with regret that we cannot burn all our past belongings and bid us to pastures new.

The tempting array of silk petticoats in one window makes us determine to have one, or die in the attempt; but when we think of all that must go with it we cautiously move on to the next one.

The display there of jacket suits is more like the article we need. They are so jaunty, and may well be called trim affairs. The relief from braid and buttons and excessive trimming is something restful. The styles are very quiet, the elegance being in the material and the cut and fit of the garment. Some of the jackets are double-breasted, lined under the revers with either the material or black silk or satin; when one wishes, these can be buttoned back and allow the silk vest to be seen. Capes are still shown, and are a great convenience at many times, and should always find a place in one's wardrobe.

The Russian blouse in jackets is doomed, while the effect may still be used in dress-making.

All sorts of fluffy collarettes of chiffon silk and feathers are worn; indeed, this is a season we have not seen in many years, for fluff, fuss and feathers.

Ruffles, pinked upon the edges, will trim

many of the gowns later on in the season. Lace grenadines over colored silk slips will be a favorite summer dress. The material being very wide, five yards is considered sufficient.

The millinery is more attractive than in many years before. The shapes of thirty years ago are revived. The shepherdess hat is particularly noticeable, and is becoming to so many. As so much lace is being worn, it is a good way to use your old lace you have had lying away for so many years. The sailor-hat still holds its own, and though they are varied styles of it, the one trim, severe pattern is still held to be very stylish, and where one does not care to have many hats, the sailor should always be one. BELLE KING.

LINEN-SHOWER.

A very novel entertainment now is for the bridesmaid or maid of honor to give her bride friend a linen-shower. This comes after the announcement luncheon given by the bride herself. The young hostess has given the other girl friends due notice, and the gifts of linen are sent to her house the day before; to each piece is attached the cards of the giver.

At one not long since the lunch-cloth

cut in the form of a sickle, and artistically hand-painted with alfalfa blooms and leaves. The ribbon upon the handle was of that beautiful new shade of purple called Orphelia.

"Being in the hay-field," remarked Lilian, gaily, "I have prepared dinner accordingly. My dear old grandma aided me in preparing the menu, and initiated me into



the mysteries of how it should be served. The servants have been banished and we are to wait upon ourselves 'picnic-style.'"

Of what did the repast consist? Turkey and oyster dressing? Not a bit of it. Deliciously browned, fried chicken, cream gravy, mashed potatoes, cold slaw, with whipped cream dressing, beet pickles, spiced pears, asparagus, canned corn, fresh and canned fruits, pies, cakes and ice-cream.

Everything was on the table when they sat down, excepting the ice-cream, which was genuine old-fashioned vanilla cream. The bread-and-butter plates did duty also for pie-plates. Fruit and side-dishes were arranged artistically around each respective plate. Neither tray-cloths or doilies were used, as these things would not be in keeping with a "camping-out dinner."

The china-service was most dainty and beautiful, however, having been painted and fired by Lilian herself. Her grandmother's old-fashioned silverware added to the unique effect of the whole.

The guests lingered long at the tables, and much merriment prevailed. They appeared to forget that they were in a city, and enjoyed the delightful freedom of being in the country or camping out upon the mountain-side.

It was the most unconventional affair of the season, and was pronounced by all the most enjoyable.

ELLA BARTLETT SIMMONS.

CASE FOR EMBROIDERY SILK.

It is necessary to keep one's silks and work carefully so that they are not roughened, in which case there is a great loss. Many styles have been presented, but our illustration suggests a great convenience. The book containing the silk may be slipped in one pocket and the work in the other. It is a good idea to have a small bag, also, to slip in one's scissors, needle-case and thimble, as they are apt to lose out of almost any receptacle if unconfined.



The material is gray art linen, embroidered in any pretty flower pattern. The initials are worked on separate pieces and then put on with buttonhole-stitch. The lining is of dark green silk and the handles of olive-green satin ribbons. B. K.

Jayne's Expectorant is a good cough cure, and helpful in all diseases of the Throat and Lungs.

WOOD-CARVING.

When the beginner in wood-carving has secured a set of sharpened tools, a mallet, and a pair of clamps, he or she will sit at a table and proceed to clamp thereon a smooth, well-seasoned board of cherry or walnut. The tools should lie with their sharp ends toward the worker, so that he can make his selections quickly. Draw pencil-marks on your wood and then practice cutting delicate grooves with the hollow gouge and with the V-tool. Use common sense and be gentle. If you find you have cut in too deeply, remove the tool from the groove and try again. You should make a clean, delicate shaving. When you become expert try your ingenuity in making a border, repeating one group of lines or using some well-known classic design, such as the Grecian pattern. In the January number of the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, page 24, were given designs for braiding, which could be adapted to the use of the V-tool on wood. If possible consult the designs. Numbers 4, 7, 8, 9 and 10 are all fine for your purpose.

Please remember that as your teacher, I insist on your doing something well, before you attempt anything difficult. The reason you try to carve is to train your hand to neatness, precision, grace. If you are going to be content with slovenly work, stop at once. Do not register your untidiness in anything so durable as wood.

At this stage of experience, you could try a design in chip-carving, using your parting-tool to cut the line which is to be sunk deepest, slanting down to it on both sides by cutting with your chisel or flat gouge. As I have explained in another article, chip-carving can be done with a knife, but I have done mine with my usual carving-tools, having my wood clamped to a table. These instructions may sometimes seem vague to you, but if you try to put them into practice your successes and failures will soon illuminate what seemed dark.

The question is often asked, "How shall



I finish my carved wood? To this I say apply nothing to it except raw linseed-oil.

Another simple kind of carving is incised; that is, where the pattern is cut in and does not stand up from the ground plane.

Accompanying this article is a pattern for a picture-frame, designed by Mr. Benn Pitman, who deserves great honor for the influence he used to promote the art of carving. This design is to be incised. The frame should be enlarged so that the opening will hold a cabinet photograph. The wood should be smoothly planed but not sand-papered, because the sand would dull the tools. On a piece of paper, exactly the size of your frame, draw the Virginia creeper. I hope you have some skill in drawing. On the paper you can correct your lines and change any ungraceful part. When satisfied that you have a pleasing arrangement, transfer your drawing to the frame by placing black transfer-paper under your sketch and going over the lines with a lead-pencil, pressing on it so as to leave a distinct copy of your pattern on the wood. Now outline the whole with your parting-tool. Deepen the large stems with your hollow gouge. Lower the leaves with your flat gouge. Make the berries by twisting the hollow gouge till you gain the proper size. Good luck to you! K. K.

THE JAPANESE WOMAN'S FACE.

"The secret, perhaps," says a traveler, "of the sweet expression and habitual serenity of the Japanese women can be found in their freedom from small worries. The fashion of dress never varying saves the wear of the mind on that subject; and the bareness of the houses and simplicity of diet make housekeeping a mere bagatelle. Everything is exquisitely clean and easily kept so. There is no paint, no drapery, no crowds of ornaments, no coming in to the

house with footgear worn in the dusty streets. And there is the peaceful feeling of living in rooms that can be turned into balconies and verandas at a moment's notice, or having walls that slide away as freely as do the scenes on the stage, and let in all out-of-doors, or change the suite of rooms to the shape and size that the whim of the day or the hour requires."—Missionary Review.

GOOD BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN.

It is a mystery to me why so many parents either cannot see, or else will not try, to teach their children even the first principles of good manners. Are they so accustomed to their ways that they have come to believe that what they do is perfectly right? Or are they ashamed to correct them before others, or too much absorbed in some mental calculation to notice the difference between the behavior of their offspring and others with whom they come in contact?

When playing with others they must have their own way, or there is a fuss, and the screaming child rushes to the sympathetic parent with dreadful complaints of the conduct of Willie or Fannie, when nine times out of ten he is the sole cause of the disturbance. He may be slightly reproved for propriety's sake, but he very well knows he has the sympathy of his indulgent parent, and so rushes back to his playmates with a more determined spirit of aggressiveness than ever. When indoors they never speak, they simply scream, when addressing each other, until one wishes he lived close to Niagara falls, so the roar might possibly deaden the piercing sound of their voices. They are first in war, first to the table, and first in selecting the easy-chairs; and if any one is trying to play on the piano, they will kick a tattoo accompaniment against the shovel and poker, until one is almost led to believe that they have been trained to act as they do, instead of being taught to keep a child's place.

All conversation must cease, whenever they take a notion to "chip in," which is so frequently that we give up and settle into an admiring (?) audience; while they vary the performance by standing on their heads what seems to us long enough to kill any child endowed with the usual amount of brains, turning hand-

springs, dragging each other by the heels, all the time screeching like Comanches on the war-path. But it is at the table that they reach the climax of bad behavior. As soon as the meal is announced they rush for a seat, and grabbing a knife and fork beat them together like eastanets, kicking the chairs, and issuing orders and demands for everything in or out of reach at the top of their voices. Then commences a series of fault-finding, from the soup to the dessert, frequently having a plate changed because they dislike some particular kind of food they had insisted on having. Drinking glass after glass of milk, then waving the glass in the air while noisily demanding more. Sometimes they would rare back in their chairs, and whiningly declare there was "nothing fit to eat," but after sulking awhile would make out a respectable meal after all. This picture is not overdrawn; it is simply the actions of children who are allowed to take "first place" in everything. One good thing, such children do well for comparisons, and such behavior, as object-lessons, is better than months spent in talking "good manners;" but one thing is certain, were they my own I would just keep them in iron cages, at least when visiting. A. M. M.

PATIENT MR. SPARROW.

It was one day in the middle of March, when the skies were blue and tender and the sunshine beguiling, that Mr. and Mrs. Sparrow, after much consultation, began their nest in a convenient crotch of the old sycamore-tree just outside my window. Mr. Sparrow did most of the work, while Mrs. Sparrow busied herself by ruffling her feathers, hopping about from twig to twig, and scolding.

It takes a great many mouthfuls of grass to build a nest. At least Mr. Sparrow thinks so by this time, and what makes

it discouraging is that a little tilt one way or the other will send all these ragged bits flying down to the ground. It is most provoking when you have just flown up three flights of stairs with a fine lot of material to have it tumble down again, but Mr. Sparrow would dart away after it and never complain a word—no, not even a chirp.

The nest had quite a fine start, and Mrs. Sparrow began to take an interest in pulling the bits of grass one way and another and arranging them neatly, which was such a comfort to Mr. Sparrow, when a blizzard came along and the nest was blown away.

But there were more pleasant days, and Mr. Sparrow bravely began the nest again, and Mrs. Sparrow sat on a bare twig in the sunshine and chirped her approval. This made Mr. Sparrow very happy, and sometimes he would sit on a twig too, and stretch his weary little wings to rest them, and gossip with Cousin Sparrow, who happened to be passing by, or refresh himself with a drink from the most cunning little knot-hole in a bend of the tree which the rain always filled with water.

But, alas, black clouds gathered with a howling wind, and the frail little hope of a nest was once more swept away. This happened many times. At last fine weather came, with innocent bits of clouds like lamb's-wool floating through skies of purest blue, and Mr. Sparrow, with "try it again" bristling in every feather, began putting his nest together once more. The next day a snow-storm put a stop to it.

Cousin Sparrow stopped in the tree that afternoon to look at it, and just as plain as a bird could chirp, she said:

"Oh, dear!"

Once the nest was actually large enough for Mrs. Sparrow to sit in, and with what delight she whirled around to make it smooth; then pirates came and pulled it to pieces.

But Mr. Sparrow is not discouraged, and this fine, sunny April morning I can see him flying up with his bill full of leaves and grass. He is beginning his nest all over again with fresh hope and cheer.

Dear Mr. Sparrow! I wish we could learn to be as patient as you are!

FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

WAYS TO WASH PAINT.

It is often a question with housewives how to remove dirt from painted wood-work and leave the paint. A plateful of the best whiting is a great aid in this work; but where it is not at hand a good substitute for it will be found in the white part of coal-ashes. Provide a plate with some of the white ashes, and have ready some clean, warm water and a piece of flannel, which dip into the water and squeeze nearly dry; then take up as much of the ashes as will adhere to it, apply it to the painted surface, when a little rubbing will instantly remove any dirt or grease, after which wash the part well with clean water, rubbing it dry with a chamois or a clean soft rag. Paint thus cleaned looks as fresh as when first laid on, without any injury whatever to the most delicate colors. It will not cut the paint nor prove the least injurious to the hands.

Sometimes when we move into a house that had been tenanted before us by a family that did not feel under any obligations to "clean up" before they left, we find the woodwork in a fearful plight. In such cases more than the ordinary care must be exercised to take off the dirt and leave the paint. Much of the drudgery may be overcome by using the following recipe: Two quarts of water, half a bar of soap dissolved in it, two tablespoonfuls of powdered borax and two tablespoonfuls of turpentine. This will make a kind of transparent jelly or soft soap. Take a flannel rag, with which spread the preparation thin and evenly. Have ready a pail of warm water and two soft cotton rags. Take, for instance, one door, which should be soaped and then washed off before you begin another one, as it is best not to let the soap dry too much before wiping off. This will require but a few minutes' work, and will leave the paint uncut, but bright and clean. MRS. W. L. TABOR.

Conway, Ark.

Attention is called to the advertisement of Julius Hines & Son, Baltimore, Md. This house has a reputation of carrying a good line of merchandise at reasonable prices. A postcard to them will bring a catalogue describing everything they sell.

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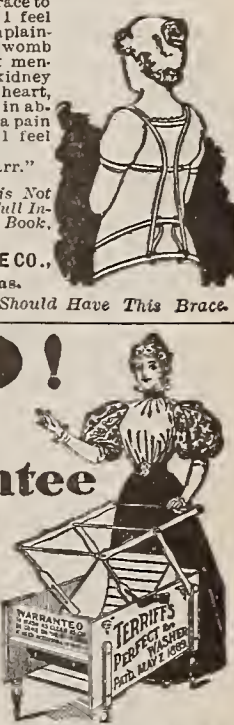
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Our Household.

A SONG OF HOPE.

I.

Were it not good to die, if death be rest?
Sweet freedom from the ills that make us weep?
A gentle softness of a dreamless sleep,
That only breaks as on a mother's breast?
God knoweth best.

II.

There surely must be peace beyond the grave,
No bleeding of the heart in silent pain,
No agony of soul that love grows vain,
No bitter cry for one oblivious wave
To flood life's cave.

III.

And if by God's good pleasure we should meet
Our friends in that hereafter, face to face,
Would not the sweetness of one long embrace
Smooth out the pressure of pain's weary feet?
Its sting defeat?

IV.

And if it be that death gives rest and peace,
Has man no duty till its poppy falls
And steals his spirit from its sensuous walls?

Has he not any talent to increase,
That life should cease?

V.

Shall he not hold his passions in control,
And live his little life with honest breath?
Not fearing nor despising common death,
But labor to be worthy of the soul,
And death's great goal?

—Charles Lusted.

HOW TO EARN PIN-MONEY.

OF all the recent branches of art none is more popular than the exquisite miniature painting. It is the rage now, as it was in my great-grand-mother's day, for I used to think it a great treat to see her open the little jewel-trunk where she kept her treasures and let us look at the miniature painting in ivory of her mother. It was mounted exactly as they are mounting them now—oval in shape, with gold back and narrow rim around the picture.

I was thrown quite a good deal with an art teacher in New York recently, who was there improving herself in this branch of art, and she had secured several orders, which she said would be very remunerative; she asked fifty and seventy-five dollars for the smaller ones worn as a pin.

Well-known artists get from one to five hundred dollars for them. Ivory-painting is quite expensive; that is, the real ivory. An amateur must be careful and trust her first buying to an experienced artist. A great many artists prefer to have a photograph taken of the person that wishes a miniature; some make pencil-sketches. The material necessary for miniature painting in addition to the ivory is as follows: A ground glass slab, and a small palette-knife for grinding and mixing colors, when powdered ones are used, a bottle of gum arabic water, a tracing-point, not too sharp, as it will indent the ivory. The colors are in water-colors in cakes or powders—colors as follows:

Carmine,	Chrome Yellow,
Pink Madder,	Ultramarine,
Rose Madder,	Cobalt,
Crimson Lake,	Burnt Sienna,
Indian Red,	Burnt Amber,
Light Red,	Sepia,
Venetian Red,	Madder Red,
Vermilion,	Neutral Tint,
Scarlet Vermilion,	Purple Madder,
Orange Vermilion,	Ivory-black.

A sable brush is the only kind that should be used for miniature painting. There are two kinds of real ivory—hard ivory, which is already prepared for painting, or vegetable ivory, or celluloid, which is sometimes employed for the foundation of the cheap miniature. But I would not recommend it. Nothing could be more beautiful than one of these paintings well executed, and if a young girl has any talent she should cultivate it, and try to get orders among her friends. If she has ever painted on china she will not find it difficult to paint on ivory. It is tedious and dainty work, but you can soon have enough money to take a first-class passage on one of our finest steamships abroad. I saw several progressive young women in New York last summer who were taking a special course, so as to teach it in their winter classes, and also to get orders outside of their class. SARAH H. HENTON.

PEACH SHORT-CAKE.

THE CAKE.—

- 1 cupful of sugar,
 - 1 cupful of sweet milk,
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cupful of butter,
 - 2 eggs,
 - 3 cupfuls of flour or enough to make a tolerably stiff batter.
- Flavor with vanilla.
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoonfuls of baking-powder.
A little salt.

Rub the butter and sugar together, beat in the yolks, then the milk and salt and the beaten whites alternately with the flour in which the baking-powder has been mixed. Bake in a dripping-pan, turn out upon a cloth, and when cold cut in half. Put peaches between layers and on top. Sweeten the peaches to taste. Canned peaches make nice cake.

THE SAUCE.—

- 1 pint of boiling milk,
- 1 well-beaten egg,
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cupful of sugar,
- 1 teaspoonful of corn-starch.

Mix well, with a pinch of salt, stir into the milk and let it boil a few minutes. Stir to keep from lumping; when cool, flavor with vanilla.

CUP FRUIT-PUDDING.—

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cupful of sugar,
- 1 egg, well beaten,
- 1 cupful of sweet milk,
- Flour enough to make a light batter,
- 1 even teaspoonful of baking-powder,
- sifted in flour.

Grease cups with butter, put in a spoonful of batter and one of any kind of preserves. A little more butter. Don't have cups more than two thirds full. Steam one hour. Serve with cream and sugar, or a sauce, if you wish.

CAKE ALLIE.—

- 2 cupfuls of soft sugar,
- 1 cupful of milk,
- 1 cupful of butter,
- Whites of four eggs,
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ cupfuls of flour,
- 2 teaspoonfuls of baking-powder.

Bake in three layers, two white and one pink. For the pink layer use either red sugar, dissolved, or candy-coloring.

FILLING.—

- $2\frac{1}{2}$ cupfuls of dark brown sugar,
- 2 eggs, whites of, beaten to a stiff froth,
- 5 cents' worth of English walnuts, chopped fine.

LEMON DUMPLINGS.—

- 1 quart of flour,
- 2 heaping teaspoonfuls of baking-powder sifted in flour, with a little salt,
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cupful of butter and lard, mixed.

Work it through the flour. Wet with sweet milk, as for biscuit.

FILLING.—

- 2 lemons, the juice of,
- Grated yellow rind of one lemon,
- 1 egg,
- 1 cupful of sugar, well beaten,
- 1 tablespoonful of corn-starch wet in a little milk and stirred in with egg and sugar.

Put all in a pan and pour boiling water onto it, stirring it all the while until it is like thick starch. Roll out your crust as for dumplings; put a spoonful of filling in, and pinch the crust well together. Tie each one in a cloth, and steam one hour. Serve with a lemon sauce.

HICKORY-NUT JUMBLES.—

- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of butter,
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of flour,
- 1 cupful of kernels,
- $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of sugar,
- 2 eggs.

SPANISH FRUIT-PUDDING.—

Line a baking-dish with a light puff-paste, add a layer of shredded pineapple, cover with powdered sugar, a layer of sliced oranges, with more sugar, then one of bananas. Repeat this process until the dish is full. Cover with the paste, and bake to a delicious brown. RUBY.

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Our Sunday Afternoon.

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED.

(John 14.)

Let not your heart be troubled;
Have faith. Believe in me.
I go to prepare a mansion.
In Father's House, for thee.

Let not your heart be troubled,
Although I go away;
I will come again and receive you,
Unto myself, some day.

Let not your heart be troubled.
How sweet those words to me.
That where he is, there also
I shall forever be.

—John M. Baker.

THE GROSS MISUSE OF THE NOMINATIVE CASE OF PRONOUNS.

There is one extremely common mistake in English which always fills me with sadness, when it does not fill me with vexation," said the man who tries to be careful in his use of language. "I do not like to preach general discourses on the use of bad language, because I do not feel safe, and one's sermon in such a case is so likely to be a ridiculous example of the thing complained of. But this mistake is so gross and palpable that any one with an elementary knowledge of grammar should recognize it. The thing which makes it peculiarly sad or vexatious is the fact that the error is often made by persons who make some pretense of using good English. Half or seventy-five per cent of the school-teachers, I will venture to say, make this mistake. It is the use of such expressions as 'Between you and I,' 'They asked you and I to come,' 'Let you and I go,' or, more horrible still, 'They saw he and I up-town.' In other words, it is the use of the nominative form of the pronoun as the object of a preposition or a verb.

"The reason for this is obvious. It is known that ignorant persons use such expressions as 'Him and me went up-town,' or 'You and me was seen.' People learning that such expressions are incorrect somehow get the notion that it is never correct to use such a form as 'You and me,' or 'Him and her,' or 'Them and me.' They feel guilty whenever they are caught using such a combination of words, and doubtless, if they heard a person say, 'They asked him and me to come to the dinner,' which alone is correct, they would have a sense that an error had been made. They get to feel that the conjunction 'and' has a kind of double-action control, governing the nominative case at both ends. A little reflection would remind them that this word has nothing at all to do with the cases.

"A sure cure for this bad habit is to drop the 'and' and use each of the pronouns alone. What person, for instance, who would say 'They asked you and I to come,' would also say 'They asked I to come,' or what person, who would without hesitation say 'Let you and I go,' could ever be caught saying, 'Let I go?' Many of the people who use 'you and I' as the object of a verb would not go so far as to say 'They asked he and I if we would come,' but there are persons who go this length and display an annoying sense of superiority in doing it. They feel that there is something elegant about the combinations, 'He and I,' 'She and I,' and 'They and I,' and scorn the humble accusative forms, yet even these would hardly say 'They saw I,' or 'They saw she,' or 'They saw they.' Why in the world, then, should the 'and' make any difference in their speech? This is a point to which it would be well for teachers of English to give their attention."—Indianapolis News.

DEEPEST SHAFTS IN THE WORLD.

The question of the deep shafts of the world came up in a group of mining engineers recently, and some of those present maintained that the Geyser shaft in this state was, next to the Comstock, the deepest in the United States. Prof. B. Sadler asserted that this was an error; that the Geyser shaft is the fourth in depth in this country, and that even the Comstock was exceeded by many shafts in other parts of the world. "I have secured some information on this subject," said he, "and keep it with me for handy reference.

"The deepest shaft in the world is that of the Red Jacket, Calumet and Hecla in the Lake Superior district, which has at-

tained a depth of 4,900 feet. The next is the Tamarack, in the same district, with 4,500 feet. The Comstock comes next, with 3,123 feet, and then the Geyser, in the Silver Cliff district, with 2,400 feet. The fifth is the Grass Valley shaft in Idaho, with 2,182 feet; the sixth, the Kennedy, in Jackson, Cal., with 2,150 feet; the seventh, the California, of this state, with 2,100 feet, and the eighth is a disused shaft of the Philadelphia & Reading Coal Company, at Pottsville, Pa., with a depth of 2,000 feet.

"There are many deep shafts in other countries. In Belgium there are five which have attained a depth of more than 3,000 feet: The Produits' colliery, at Mons, 3,937 feet; the Vivers shaft at Gilly, 3,750 feet; the Viernoy shaft at Anderlues, 3,200 feet; the Marchienne colliery, 3,117 feet, and the St. Andre shaft of the Poirer colliery, 3,100 feet.

"Austria-Hungary has three deep shafts: The Adalbert, 3,672 feet; the Maria, 3,281 feet, and the Anna, 3,100 feet, all in the Przibram mining-district of Bohemia.

"Great Britain also has three: The Pendleton, at Manchester, with workings 3,474 feet below the surface; the Ashton Moss, at Manchester workings, 3,360 feet, and the Astley Pit, Dukinfield, workings, 3,150 feet.

"In Victoria, Australia, there are the Lansell's Bendigo, 3,302 feet, and the Lazarus Bendigo, 3,024 feet.

"These deep workings show that in Colorado we have not commenced to explore the rich territory awaiting development."—Denver Republican.

COURTESY.

What constitutes true courtesy? Is it the mode of entering and leaving a drawing-room, the etiquette of a dinner-party, or the latest bow as taught by Professor Two-step?

No; these exactions of Dame Fashion, while well to be familiar with, do not form the criterion for good breeding; they are simply a veneer—a veneer that is constantly being changed by the fickle dame. To be truly courteous, one must be respectful, unobtrusive, and always considerate of the feelings of others.

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and if you have kindly feelings toward those with whom you associate, you need never be afraid of committing a breach of courtesy. The little mistakes made at a formal dinner or reception may be mortifying for the moment, but they count as nothing; for the ins and outs of such functions, the table appointments, etc., change often, and one must be a Beau Brummel, indeed, to be able to keep up with its vagaries.

Do you know the most important reason why many young people are ill at ease in company? You may not have thought of it before, girls, but it is true, nevertheless, you neglect to cultivate politeness in the home; in consequence you are always fearful of doing something not quite correct when away from its borders.

Practice makes perfect, and those who are ill-mannered and dictatorial with their brothers and sisters are apt to make a slip in the presence of others.

"Please" and "I thank you" cost nothing, and both help toward that ease of hearing, that charm of personality that we admire so much in others.—Annie B. Wheeler, in Lutheran Observer.

THE CANT OF UNSECTARIANISM.

The "Watchman" for March 3d, says sharp truths about "the cant of unsectarianism." It defends the word "sectarian" from the opprobrious use which is often made of it. "The use of the word 'sectarian' depends on the point of view. The different communions call themselves denominations; they call each other 'sects.' " It thus punctures the "holier than thou" conceit which prides itself on its freedom from all taint of that for which this word stands. "In every community you will find the men and women who attach themselves to no church, because, they say, they have reached a higher plane than that on which denominational lines exist. They are so broad and catholic that they never could unite with any one church. Of course, you might expect that these persons would be very active and useful in promoting the interests of all the churches represented in the community. But commonly you will find that just the contrary is the case." There is a savor of "cant," too, about much of the advocacy of "union"

on the part of people inside the churches who make a parade of "unsectarianism" in word, but take no step toward union in deed.

THE NERVES NEVER GROW OLD.

Commenting on the common causes of nervous disorders, Professor W. H. Thomson, M.D., LL.D., says:

"The message of modern science about the nervous system is more hopeful than ever. It tells us that the nervous system has a greater store of reserve vitality than all the other bodily systems put together. It is the only texture that is found not to have lost weight after death by starvation, as well as after death by any cause. It is the last to grow old; and as to the mind, it need not grow old at all, provided it be steadily applied with that mighty spiritual element in us, which we call interest. Even the muscular system can be wonderfully sustained by interest; for should a man attempt the same muscular work on a treadmill, which he lightly endures along the mountain brook after a trout, he would faint dead away. But the mind will by interest grow steadily, even while bone and sinew are wasting through age."

TAKE UP THE LITTLE DUTIES.

Many a Christian destroys his peace and usefulness because he is not willing to do little things. He wants to speak and pray well, eloquently, edifyingly, or not at all. Because he cannot do some great thing he won't do anything. He must sit in the first seat, or nowhere. Now, no one is fit to do great things unless he is willing to do little things. He must be faithful in the least, or he will never be useful in the greatest. If all were willing to add a little to the interest of the Sunday-school, or to the strength and influence of the church, there would not be so many praying to be excused. Happy is the man who is willing to do a little, the servant of all, a door-keeper, bell-ringer, fire-builder, lamp-lighter, anything, that will serve Christ in the house of God.—Standard.

PEOPLE WHO HELP THE PRAYER-MEETING.

The busy man who regularly attends it; the people, young and old, who sit in the front seats; the gray-haired old saint, who comes with a smiling face and always has something to say of the love of Christ; the timid people, who can only quote a brief passage of Scripture or utter a brief testimony, but whose lives show that they really love Christ; the young people, who testify promptly, utter short prayers, and sing sweetly; the soul who cannot speak, or pray, or sing, without increasing the spiritual sunshine; the social people who welcome strangers, and who do not hurry away when the meeting is closed.

A LETTER TO WOMEN.

A few words from Mrs. Smith, of Philadelphia, will certainly corroborate the claim that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is woman's ever reliable friend.

"I cannot praise Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound too highly.

"For nine weeks I was in bed suffering with inflammation and congestion of the ovaries. I had a discharge all the time. When lying down all the time, I felt quite comfortable; but as soon as I would put my feet on the floor, the pains would come back.

"Every one thought it was impossible for me to get well. I was paying \$1 per day for doctor's visits and 75 cents a day for medicine. I made up my mind to try Mrs. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. It has effected a complete cure for me, and I have all the faith in the world in it. What a blessing to woman it is!"—MRS. JENNIE L. SMITH, No 324 Kauffman St., Philadelphia, Pa

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. **NO-TOBAC** removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood. 1,500 stores sold. 400,000 cases cured. Buy **NO-TOBAC** from your own druggist, who will vouch for it. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. **STOP SMOKING!** Suerling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

A GREAT DISCOVERY

Medical Men Say It is Revolutionizing Treatment of Female Ills.

Through the Generosity of Mrs. Ellen Worley Thousands of Packages Will Be Given Away This Month.

One of the most remarkable medical discoveries of the decade is the new German Compound originated by Dr. Erastus Bann, of Berlin, which learned medical men say is an absolute cure for Falling of the Womb, Leucorrhea, Whites, Inflammation of the Ovaries, and Female Weakness in all its phases.

Thousands of cases which even hospital treatment failed to cure have demonstrated the marvelous curative properties of this great specific, and so far not a single failure to cure has been recorded.

In these days of humbuggery and quackery it will prove a boon to female sufferers, for Mrs. Ellen Worley, Box 666, Springfield, Ohio, has prepared to distribute several thousand free packages to those of her sex who will write for them.

Mrs. Worley was cured by this great remedy after paying doctors more than one thousand dollars without benefit; and those who are in doubt and need of advice can write freely and unburden themselves to her without the natural diffidence that forbids them telling a male physician about their private ills.

She will mail the remedy in plain sealed package without charge and tell you where you can purchase the great specific which will most certainly cure you.

The demand on Mrs. Worley for the free packages has been enormous during the past month, and it is possible that hundreds of women who read this notice may avoid a hospital operation with all its attendant horror by taking advantage of this latest offer.

FREE FOR BOYS & GIRLS

To introduce the new **Easy Threading** Gold Eyed Needles we give a handsome, open face, fine time-keeping **Watch**, and **Gold Plated Chain** if you sell a small lot among friends. We mail Needles at our risk. When sold, send money and we mail Watch or send 25 pieces of plated **Table Ware**, **Air Rifle** and 1000 **Shots**, or **Camera**, or keep half the money instead of a present. Write you will return what you don't sell. Give your name (Mr., Miss or Mrs.) so we can tell are you a Lady or Gentleman. Write on **Postal Card, TRUST NO NEEDS CO., 529 E. 116th St., New York**

7000 BICYCLES

carried over from 1897 must be sacrificed now. New High Grade, all styles, best equipment, guaranteed. **\$9.75 to \$17.00.** Used wheels, late models, all makes, \$3 to \$12. We ship on approval without a cent payment. Write for bargain list and catalogue of well '98 models. **BICYCLE FREE** for season to advertise them. Send for one. Rider agents wanted. Learn how to Earn a Bicycle and make money. **E. F. MEAD CYCLE CO., CHICAGO.**

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A BIG OFFER

50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50 or \$100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. **GIANT OXIE CO., 126 Willow St., Augusta, Me.**

WE WANT A MAN in every city or township to look after our business; steady work and liberal pay the year round. Some men have realized OVER \$100.00 FROM ONE WEEK'S WORK. Places for a few ladies. Write at once to **J. W. JONES CO., SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.**

CANVASSERS COIN CASH in working for me. Ladies and gentlemen, this is your great opportunity. **OUT-FIT FREE!** Are you ready? Workers write at once to **E. HANNAFORD, Springfield, Ohio.**

\$9 A DAY! COUNTY AGENTS WANTED Farmers and Teachers preferred. \$8 for Ohio, \$4 for Mich., \$7 for Pa., \$2 for Ind., and one in every county in United States. Light and pleasant work. Write for circular. **FULTON SUPPLY CO., WATSEON, OHIO.**

FREE! This ring to any one that sends 10 cents in silver for a box of our Wonderful Corn Salve. Address **ANTHONY REMEDY CO., Dept. 10, Hempstead, N. Y.**

RUBBER GOODS For Men, Women and Children. Address, **The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co., 147 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO.** Catalogue Free.

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the Most Beautiful and Popular
Women's Magazine in the World, on
extra liberal commissions. Terms,
sample copies and special helps
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SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

It treats with you whether you continue the
nerve-killing tobacco habit. **NO-TO-BAC**
removes the desire for tobacco, with-
out nervous distress, expels nicot-
ine, purifies the blood, re-
stores lost manhood, 1,500
makes you strong, 1,000 boxes
in health, nerve, sold, 400,000
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will vouch for us. Take it with
a will, patiently, persistently. One
box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50,
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Work for either sex,
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All for 2c. stamp. OHIO CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.

CARDS Send 2c. stamp for Sample Book of all the
FINEST & LATEST Styles in Beveled Edge,
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ALL FOR TWO CENTS. CROWN CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.

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paying business. All profits clear, as we
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700 Sample Styles of Silk Fringe Cards, Hidden Name Cards, Love
Cards, Scrap Pictures, Games, Puzzles, Album Verses, The Star
Puzzle, The 15 Puzzle, and Agents Sample Album. Postpaid in U.S.
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WANT ED address of ruptured men. Send 6
and we'll mail free a present that will
please you. S. H. CO., Westbrook, Maine.

SALESMEN FOR CIGARS; \$125 a month and
expenses; experience unnecessary; in-
ducements to customers. C. C. BISHOP & CO., St. Louis, Mo.

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LADIES, BOYS AND GIRLS to distribute samples of
baking powder and get a camera, gold filled watch or bicycle free.
For particulars address National Consolidated Co., Chicago, Ill.

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RUPTURE Sure Cure at home. 30 Days' Treatment FREE. Dr. W.
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It ought to be in every home. We guarantee it to give
entire satisfaction or money refunded. It is given free
for a club of TWO yearly subscriptions. Price, with
Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cents.

Smiles.

A TALE OF WOE.

I cannot mind my wheel, mother,
I cannot mind my wheel;
It slips upon the mud, mother,
As if it were an eel.
I thought when Robin taught me
No secret he'd conceal;
But I am still at sea, mother,
Upon this silly wheel.
I feel as if I'd rushed, mother,
Upon some awful fate;
I wonder if I'm flustered, mother,
And if my hat is straight.

If eart or cab comes near me,
I know that I shall squeal;
I cannot mind my wheel, mother,
I cannot mind my wheel.
Like bark on angry foam, mother,
I seem to rock and reel.
I would I were at home, mother,
And at our evening meal.
I hate to see you there, mother,
Upon an even keel,
While I am in despair, mother;
Oh, mother, mind my wheel!

HE WRONGED HER.

O H, Henry," sighed Mrs. Wellwood,
"I'm so ill I can't hold up my head.
I wish you had come home earlier;
I've been so lonesome."
"Sorry, my dear," said her fond
husband. "It's particularly unfortunate that
you're ill, to-night. You know we are ex-
pected to be at church this evening to help
open the annual bazaar. Don't you think
that you'll be better after you've had a cup
of tea?"

"No," the sweet little woman replied, "the
thought of tea is nauseating. There isn't any
use trying to fight it off. I never get over
these attacks inside of twenty-four hours. You
must write a note to the pastor, explaining
our absence. It's too bad, but it can't be
helped."

Mr. Wellwood sat down and looked thought-
ful for a little while. Finally, as if he had
just remembered it, he exclaimed:

"By the way, I got a couple of passes for the
theater to-night. How unlucky we are.
I guess I'll go over and give them to the
Brownings. It would be too bad to waste them."

Just then it was announced that tea was
ready, and Henry Wellwood went down to the
dining-room alone. He had gotten nearly half
through eating when his fair young wife
entered, and sat down.

"Why," he said, "I thought you didn't
care to take tea this evening?"

"I feel a good deal better than I did a little
while ago," she replied.

When they had finished tea he went out to
the hall and began putting on his overcoat.

"What are you going to do, Henry?" Mrs.
Wellwood inquired.

"I'm going to take these tickets over to
the Brownings."

"Never mind," she said in her sweetest
tones; "we'll use them ourselves. My head-
ache's almost gone, and I think it will do
me good to get out."

He took off his overcoat again, and they
went up-stairs to get ready.

As Mrs. Wellwood was adjusting her hat,
Henry said:

"Darling, will you forgive me if I tell you
something?"

"What is it?" she innocently asked.

"That was just a joke about those passes. I
haven't any, but we can go and help open the
bazaar, now that you're better."

With a wild cry of distress the wronged
woman threw herself down among the cush-
ions upon the sofa, and Henry Wellwood has
as yet been unable to convince her that his
only reason for wishing to attend the bazaar
was the fact that Mildred Hazleton, of whose
beauty he had once unguardedly spoken, was
to be there in the character of a gypsy for-
tune-teller.—Cleveland Leader.

SHOULD BE PREPARED.

RHEUMATISM AND LA GRIFFE PREVALENT
AND PROMPT TREATMENT NECESSARY.

Every family should have a bottle of "5
Drops" on hand, especially at this season of
the year. Changes in the weather are so liable
to cause rheumatism, la grippe and many
other diseases that the "5 Drops" enre.

Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., Chicago: "5
Drops" promptly received. That is the med-
icine we want. My wife would undoubtedly
have been a cripple if it had not been for your
"5 Drops." We would not be without it.
Yours truly, John G. Martin, Wellsville, Mo.
Feb. 16, 1898.

This is one of many testimonials which the
manufacturers of "5 Drops" have received.

During the next thirty days they will send
out 100,000 of their sample bottles for 25 cents
a bottle. Write to-day to the Swanson Rheu-
matic Cure Co., 167 Dearborn street, Chicago,
Ill. This company is reliable and promptly
fill every order.

SHE CHANGED THE CONVERSATION.

During the summer of 1886 a handsome
New England lady paid a visit to one of the
North Side society queens of Wichita. In
due time a swell lawn party was given by
the hostess at her home to make her visitor
acquainted with her Western friends. Among
those invited was the genial and witty Will
Beatty. He was in from his trip off the road,
and, donning his best attire, was soon at the
party. He was presented to the visiting lady,
and it happened to be his good fortune a
little later in the evening to have her on his
arm promenading over the velvet lawn. In
the course of conversation Miss Blank asked
Mr. Beatty what business he followed:

"I'm a commercial traveler."

The lady, possibly in a moment of mental
aberration, made this remark: "In the East
commercial travelers do not go in the best
society."

Before the last word had hardly left her
lips Mr. Beatty replied: "They don't here,
either."

Conversation was carried on after that in
entirely different channels.—Wichita Eagle.

PREPARED.

"I have ordered everything," he said, sink-
ing wearily on the sofa.

"Did you see about the stoves?" his wife
asked.

"Yes, I bought fourteen of them—a coal-
stove and a gas-stove for each room."

"And the coal."

"Yes; forty tons and eight cords of wood.
They will all be delivered at our new place
to-morrow."

And next day they moved into their Harlem
steam-heated flat.—Evening Journal.

HE KNEW IT.

It is one mark of a quack, says "The Hos-
pital Gazette," whatever school he may belong
to, that he never admits his own ignorance.

A "hedge doctor," a kind of quack in Ire-
land, was being examined at an inquest on
his treatment of a patient who had died. "I
gave him ipecacuanha," he said.

"You might just as well have given him the
anrora horealis," said the coroner.

"Indade, your honor, and that's just what
I should have given him next, if he hadn't
died."

AN INCONSISTENCY.

Going smilingly up to his mother one day,
Tommy said:

"Ma, haven't I been a good boy since I
began going to Sunday-school?"

"Yes, my lamb," answered the mother,
fondly.

"And you trust me now, don't you, ma?"

"Yes, darling."

Then spoke up the little one, innocently:

"What makes you keep the mince-pies
locked up in the pantry, the same as ever?"

HER BRIGHT IDEA.

"That's a very bright idea of yours, Miss
Nellie."

"What is a very bright idea, Mr. Dolley?"

"Wearing a big hat to the theater and ex-
asperating everybody in your rear until the
curtain rises, and then relieving their anxiety
by taking it off and placing it in your lap."

"Yes, I know; it is a good plan. It attracts
attention both to my hat and to my hair."

THROUGH OTHER SPECTACLES.

Moth—"We're getting up a 'Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Insects, and to
Accomplish the Weeding Out of Camphor.'
Will you join us?"

Potato-ling—"You bet your boots I will,
if there's a clause in it against Paris green."

—Puck.

DARK CIRCLES AROUND THE EYES.

I send FREE a simple cure for this trouble so
annoying to women. Whether from ill-health,
over-work or any weakness, it can be cured.
Address Mrs. L. B. Hindant, South Bend, Ind.

A JEALOUS MAIDEN.

She—"Harry, you said something last even-
ing that made me feel so bad."

He—"What was it, dearest?"

She—"You said I was one of the sweetest
girls in all the world."

He—"And aren't you, darling?"

She—"You said 'one of the sweetest.' Oh,
Harry, to think I should live to know that
I have to share your love with another."

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure
"Drunkenness or the Liquor Habit" with or without
the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines,
No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"I regard 'American Women' as superb
in every respect," writes that most ex-
perienced agent, Mr. J. L. Terry, Longview,
Texas. "I feel absolutely sure that never
before was any such volume furnished the
public for so little money, and in spite of
financial depression from the low price of
cotton, I expect to do a good business."

RUPTURE CURED

SUFFERED THIRTY-THREE YEARS
AND NIGH TO DEATH

Remarkable Experiences of a Citizen
of Riceville, Iowa



WM. T. BLANDIN.

One of the best known men in Mitchell County is
rejoicing in the fact that after suffering thirty-three
years with a dangerous rupture was finally cured by
the system invented by Dr. W. S. Rice, Smithville, N.
Y. Mr. Blandin is never so happy as when relating
the story of his cure. For the greater part of his life
he was laid up in bed; his rupture being so large that
he could not find a truss to hold it until he learned of
the Dr. Rice method. Mr. Blandin tells of a near
neighbor of his who was also ruptured and for whom
Mr. Blandin sent for the Rice treatment. The day it
arrived this neighbor was suddenly stricken with a
strangulated hernia; two doctors and a half dozen
men held him down, the pain being so intense that he
was out of his mind. Mr. Blandin arrived on the
scene just in the nick of time and a few minutes after
the patient had revived from a powerful dose of chlo-
roform, the Rice system was put on, they had him up
and dressed and he walked out to his barn. The cir-
cumstances of these two cures attracted wide atten-
tion throughout the state. Dr. Rice has recently
prepared a book, giving a full description of his
method. It is a home cure at a very small cost and
best of all it cures without pain, danger, detention
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know to be ruptured. Such an act of kindness will
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Has a Pad different from all
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TEMPER, if ungoverned, governs the whole man.

TIME well employed is Satan's deadliest foe.—C. Wilcox.

LEVITY of behavior is the bane of all that is good and virtuous.—Seneca.

TROUBLES spring from idleness, and grievous toils from needless ease.—Franklin.

LEARN to say no, and it will be of more use to you than to be able to read Latin.—Spurgeon.

BRONCHITIS. Sudden changes of the weather cause Bronchial Troubles. "Brown's Bronchial Troches" will give effective relief.

"To think," said the visitor, "that you will have to go through life like an ex-convict!"

"Well, miss," replied Claude, "to tell you the truth, just at present there ain't nothing I'd like more to be!"—Washington Star.

"FINE morning, your worship," affably remarked the man who had been arrested the night before for being drunk and disorderly.

"Yes, indeed," responded the justice, "quite a fine morning—in fact, a \$10 fine morning."—Boston Traveler.

A MAN in Glasgow, having been charged with keeping a lottery, pleaded in extenuation that he became acquainted with lotteries in church bazaars. This did not avail, but the judge said that "churches which held lottery bazaars ought to be pulled up."

THE farm is a home—not a place to be lived at to-day and moved from to-morrow; but a home to be improved and beautified—a home where orchards are to be planted, where vines are to be grown, where substantial things are to be constructed, where children are to be born and others are to die. Into the fields come and reap new generations; out of the fields and into the graveyard pass old generations.—Southern Progress.

WHY do men prefer the privations and battling and poverty of a city, when on a farm there is so much of plenty and peace and wealth? The illiterate laborer selects the town because of that sense which prompts the knowing to raise his eye above the sixpence which conceals the dollar beyond. "It is easier," says the carter, "to load a cart than to grub a clearing." And so it is, only that brush-land once made clearstays cleared, while carts that are laden empty as fast as they are laden. The work with the cart waxes harder with the age of the carter. The cultivation of the land grows easier with the children of the farmer.—Southern Progress.

A QUESTION ANSWERED.

Why is it that so many farmers in all sections of the country purchased the "Success Anti-clog" Weeder last year; and why is it that all the neighbors of those who bought them last year are buying them this year?

Simply because any up-to-date farmer who ever saw one of them work, and afterward noted the result upon the crop would not do without one for four times its cost.

Remember that the "Success Anti-Clog" Weeder is made by D. Y. Hallock & Son, York, Penna., and that they will take pleasure in giving you full information about the utility of the machine and the reasonable price and terms upon which it is sold, if you write them, mentioning FARM AND FIRESIDE in your letter.

NOT A BICYCLE BADGE.

A well-known Daughter of the American Revolution, while in London recently, was invited to a very smart dinner. As is her invariable custom, she wore her society pin, which, as every one knows, is of gold and in the form of a good-sized spinning-wheel. In this daughter's case the pin was more conspicuous than some of the same order of orders, being set with diamonds. All during dinner the daughter noticed an athletic-looking girl across the table stared hard at the pin, but being in England, where D. A. R.'s and D. A. R. plus are novelties, she thought nothing of it. But so soon as the women had withdrawn to the drawing-room the athletic-looking girl marched straight up to the daughter and in blunt English fashion asked to look at the pin. "Well, you Americans know how to do things," said the girl. "That's the stunningest badge for a wheel club that I ever saw."

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 239 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

HIS OPPORTUNITY.

"George," pleaded Mrs. Ferguson, "I want you to promise me that if we have war with Spain you won't go!"

"Laura," replied the young husband, "in the hour of our country's peril it is the duty of every man who has a drop of patriotic blood in his veins to go forth bravely in defense of the flag. As an American who loves his country and glories in its free institutions I cannot shirk my duty."

"It would break my heart, George! There are enough men to go to war who haven't any family ties! Let them do the fighting!"

"Laura," replied George, "in the event of war there is only one thing that can keep me from going. It rests with you!"

"With me?"

"With you," solemnly he answered. "I shall exact a promise!"

"Oh, I'd promise anything!"

"The sole condition on which I will remain at home if we have war with Spain—think well before you bind yourself by an irrevocable vow—"

"I promise!"

"Is that you won't do any housecleaning this spring?"

A long, low, shuddering wail broke from her pallid lips, but it was too late. She had promised.

SALT IN SEA-WATER.

A ton of Atlantic water when evaporated yields 81 pounds of salt; a ton of Pacific water, 79 pounds. Arctic and Antarctic waters yield 85 pounds to the ton, and Dead Sea water, 187 pounds.

LOST.

"Miss Sylvia, I want you to help me with a little wager. Ruggles, here, says you can't give an answer to a question without beginning it with a 'why, ah,' and I say you can. Can't you?"

"Why, ah—I didn't know I was in the habit of—"

"Ruggles, you've won."

PLATINUM AND GOLD.

A package of wire that weighs twenty-five pounds and resembles ordinary fine-polished steel wire was entered at the Appraiser's Department of the Custom House some time ago, and valued at \$5,000. This is almost as much as the same weight of gold would be valued, and the wire attracted a good deal of attention. It was platinum wire, and for that reason worth its weight in gold. A man who viewed it said that the demand for it had apparently increased greatly, as much more platinum, crude and manufactured, was coming through the Custom House now.—Duluth News-Tribune.

THE MICRO-PHONOGRAPH.

Dr. Louis Olivier describes in a recent number of the "Revue Generale des Sciences," an instrument called the micro-phonograph, which is a combination of microphone and phonograph invented by M. F. Dussard, and developed by other workers. A series of experiments have lately been made with most promising results by Dr. Lahorde and Dr. Gelle with this instrument, to demonstrate the possibility of making sounds audible to deaf-mutes. With a number of patients they were very successful, and were able to convey the sensation of sound for the first time, and it is hoped that the micro-phonograph may prove of considerable assistance in the education of the deaf and dumb. MM. Berthon and Jauhert have also by means of this instrument in conjunction with the telephone and cinematograph been able to reproduce scenes with conversations complete, and under the auspices of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique it is proposed to arrange for a series of lifelike reproductions of naval scenes at the exhibition of 1900.—London Chronicle.

REDUCED FARES FOR STUDENTS.

For the Spring Holidays Agents of the C. H. & D. Ry. will sell tickets to all points in Central Passenger Association territory at one and one third fare for the round trip, tickets to be issued only on request of the executive officers of colleges, seminaries or universities.

Extreme limit of tickets will be May 1, 1898.




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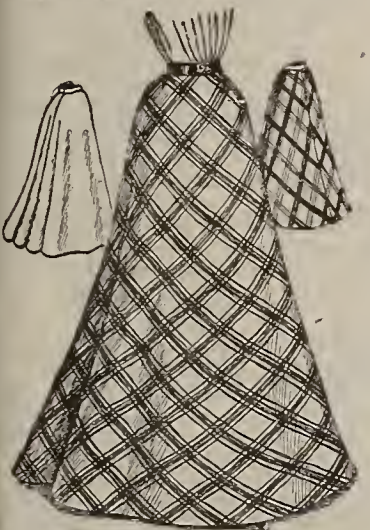
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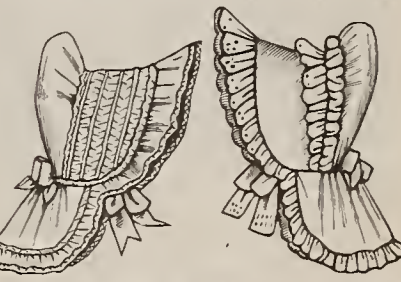
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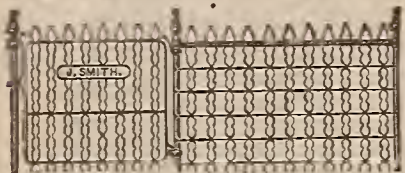
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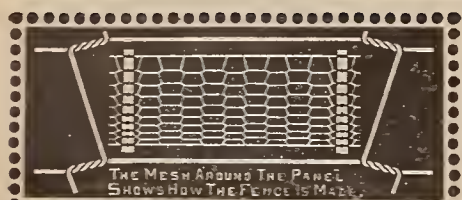
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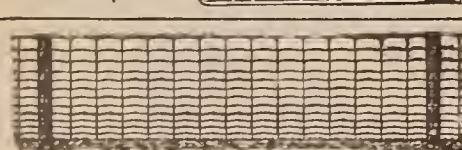
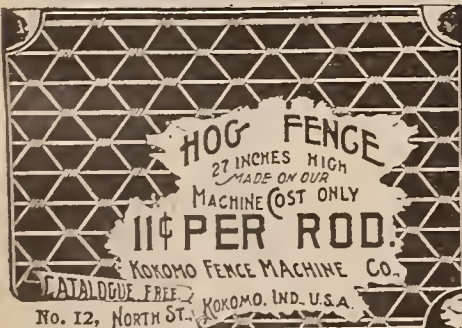
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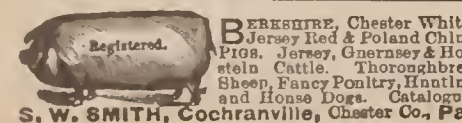
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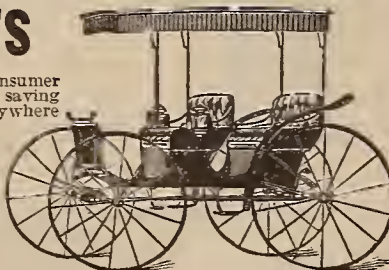
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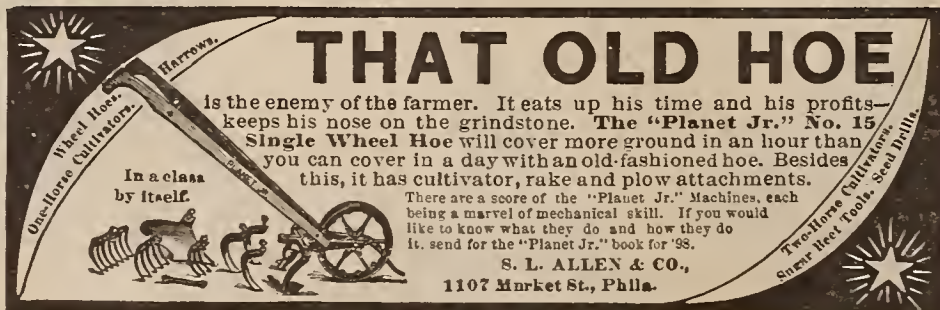
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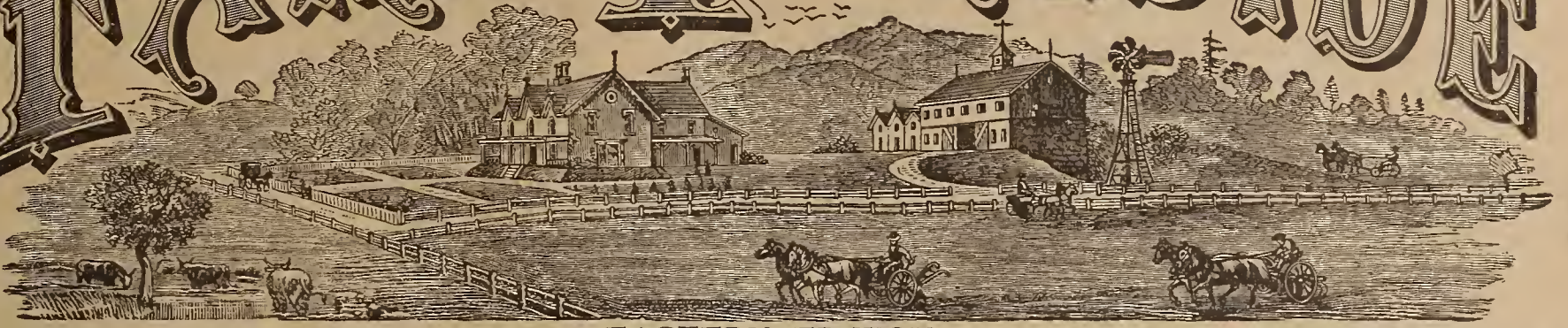
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FARM & FIRE SIDE



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WITH THE VANGUARD

THE joint resolution passed by Congress for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding that the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba, and to withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect, reads as follows:

Whereas, The abhorrent conditions which have existed for more than three years in the island of Cuba, so near our own borders, have shocked the moral sense of the people of the United States; have been a disgrace to Christian civilization, culminating as they have in the destruction of a United States battleship, with 266 of its officers and crew, while on a friendly visit in the harbor of Havana, and cannot longer be endured, as has been set forth by the President of the United States in his message to Congress of April 11, 1898, upon which the action of Congress was invited; therefore

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

First—That the people of the island of Cuba are, and of right ought to be, free and independent.

Second—That it is the duty of the United States to demand, and the government of the United States does hereby demand, that the government of Spain at once relinquish its authority and government in the island of Cuba and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters.

Third—That the President of the United States be, and he is hereby, directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states to such extent as may be necessary to carry these resolutions into effect.

Fourth—That the United States hereby disclaims any disposition or intention to exercise sovereignty, jurisdiction or control over said island, except for the pacification thereof; and asserts its determination, when that is accomplished, to leave the government and control of the island to its people.

This resolution was passed by Congress after a desperate parliamentary battle over the Turpie amendment which was adopted by the Senate, rejected by the House, and stricken out by the conference committee. This amendment, inserted by the Senate in the first declaration after the word "independent" read, "and that the government of the United States hereby recognizes the Republic of Cuba as the true and lawful government of that island."

Partisan and factional politics consumed nearly a week attacking the position of the executive, and failed, as they deserved to fail. There is a distinction between armed intervention to secure the independence of Cuba and recognition of the insurgent civil government.

"Nothing is clearer from the evidence of Consul-general Lee," says the "Chicago Times-Herald," "than that the Cubans have not won their independence, nor established the Cuban republic. As General Lee said to the senatorial committee, 'the Cubans cannot drive out the Spaniards, nor can the Spaniards conquer the Cubans.' For the United States, therefore, to recognize the independence of Cuba, or the Republic of Cuba, is to recognize something that does not exist within the meaning of international law.

"But even though it were a substantial government, it is not within the province of Congress to recognize it or become sponsor for it in the family of nations. That is entirely an executive right, and solely within the judgment of the President as to when it should be exercised. This is the stand taken by all our presidents, and more particularly by Monroe and Jackson, who had to deal immediately with this question.

"When the Spanish-American colonies revolted Congress passed many resolutions urging their recognition by President Monroe, but he withstood the clamor until he was satisfied the new governments had proved their ability to stand alone. Then, and not until then, did he act. Clay's resolutions for the recognition of the South American republics were introduced in the House in 1818, but it was not until 1822 that Monroe recognized their independence. So with regard to Texas. Jackson refused consent to its recognition until he was satisfied that independence had been achieved.

"In defiance of all precedent and the unbroken practice of the government, the Senate assumes the right to declare that the Cuban republic has attained a stage of independence that all the evidence declares it has not reached. This is a position that should be withstood from principle, both by the popular branch of Congress and by the President."

It stands to national honor that common sense prevailed, and that Congress finally passed a resolution in harmony with the policy outlined in the President's message. The provision of the resolution will be put into effect promptly. Whether the war involved in the action of Congress will be long or short, no one can tell. Of the final result there is no doubt. Cuba will be free.

Spanish sentiment is voiced by Senor Sagasta, the premier, as follows: "We have now reached the limits of concession compatible with honor and territorial integrity. We consented to the last concession at the instance of the pope and the powers. But now attempts are made upon our honor and menaces directed against our territory. That is a thing to which Spaniards will never consent. This is not the movement to trace a parliamentary program, but to unite ourselves, as our fathers have done, in the face of an odious attempt against the integrity of our territory. . . . Spain will not allow a parcel of her territory to be taken from her with impunity; nor will she be a party to any trafficking for her possessions."

A HEAVY preponderance of exports," says Bradstreets, "continues to be the feature of our foreign trade statistics. The total exports for the month of March were valued at \$112,817,863, which represents an increase of over \$25,500,000 as compared with the corresponding month of last year. The imports, on the other hand, were valued

at \$61,507,437, which was a decrease of over \$14,800,000 as compared with March, 1897. The dutiable exceeded the duty-free imports in March by over \$8,000,000, whereas in the corresponding month last year the nondutiable exceeded the dutiable imports by over \$5,800,000. In both months the exports showed an excess over the imports, but the excess last month amounted to over \$5,300,000, whereas in March, 1897, the excess amounted to only a little over \$10,900,000. For the nine months of the fiscal year ending with March the total exports were valued at \$926,161,233, which represents an excess of over \$103,800,000 as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The imports, on the other hand, were valued at \$455,199,540, which was a decrease of over \$43,600,000 as compared with the first three quarters of the last fiscal year. The dutiable exceeded the nondutiable imports in value by a little over \$17,500,000, whereas in the corresponding month of last year the nondutiable exceeded the dutiable imports in value by over \$7,400,000, so that the relative proportions of the two classes of imports have been nearly reversed. The excess of exports over imports for the nine months amounted to \$470,961,693, which was an increase of over \$147,500,000 as compared with the corresponding period of the last fiscal year. As will be seen by comparing the figures of exports and imports given above, the exports for the portion of the fiscal year which has elapsed more than doubled the imports in value."

DURING the month of March the net imports of gold amounted to \$29,540,000. During the nine months ending with March the net imports of gold amounted to \$53,000,000, nearly. The first two weeks of April increased this amount to \$60,000,000, including that engaged abroad for shipment. It is estimated that \$30,000,000 of bills are still held in this country, settlement of which will bring from abroad that much more gold.

The recent large imports of gold have increased the flow of the yellow metal into the United States treasury, and its net gold reserve is now over \$180,000,000. The rate of gain during April was larger than at any time since the payments for the last bond issue.

With an extraordinary balance of trade in its favor, with gold flowing into the country and into the treasury, with business flourishing, with national credit at its highest mark, and with vast resources, this country is in a most advantageous position to wage war with Spain. In every particular Spain's condition is the reverse. She is absolutely bankrupt; since the Maine disaster her securities have declined more than one half in value. Spain will go to war simply in a vain attempt to avert a revolution at home.

ARMED intervention will be accompanied with the offerings of American charity for the Cubans. Battleships will clear the way for vessels loaded with provisions sufficient to meet the present needs of the starving "reconcentrados." This work of relief will continue under the protection of the strong arm of the United States government, so long as there is necessity for it. Donations of provisions and supplies can be forwarded to The Central Cuban Relief Committee, 58 William St., New York.

This committee was appointed by the President of the United States, and is acting under the direction of the Department of State. Its chairman is Stephen E. Barton, of the American National Red Cross, who will, on application, furnish full information about the committee's plans of work.

THE Department of Agriculture is making further experiments with steel wagon roads. General Stone, Chief of the Good Roads Division, has made arrangements with the Cambria Iron Company for rolling special steel trackways for wagon roads. In constructing the new kind no wood is used, and the rails are without supporting cross-ties. The track consists of a simple, inverted trough or broad channel for each wheel, each track resting on a bed of gravel, with the two tied together occasionally to prevent spreading.

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Relations Between
Insects and Fungi.

It can hardly be pointed out too often or too emphatically that insects are active agents in spreading plant-diseases. Flea-beetles, blister-beetles and the larvæ of the Colorado potato-beetle not only make entering-places for potato-blight germs, but may actually carry the infection from one plant to another. Probably the flea-beetle is the worst offender of all because of the numerous punctures which it makes in the leaves. With plum and cherry trees the case is reversed. Fungi attack the leaves, causing them to drop prematurely, thus weakening the trees and rendering them an easy prey to the bark-beetle. The moral of all this is, be sure to fight the insects that attack your trees and plants early and vigorously.

Most Effective
Poisons.

The poison that has come in most general use in our warfare against insects, and really the only one that has given general satisfaction, is Paris green. This is cheap and effective, but it is not without faults. The one great trouble with it is that it does not dissolve in water, and being heavier than water will quickly settle to the bottom. A great many of the cases of complaint of Paris green not doing what was expected from it no doubt arise in just this defect of the drug. There is one easy way of dissolving Paris green, and my experiments last season seem to show that thus dissolved and diluted it can be applied to some or all of our crops needing that treatment with entire safety and success. I do not yet know what exact amount of strong ammonia (liquid) it will take to dissolve a pound of Paris green. Each person can find that out for himself, and I shall do so very soon. Neither do I as yet know what strength of the solution can be safely used. As the distribution of the dissolved Paris green all through the water seems to be perfect, I believe that a rather weak solution, say 150 gallons of water to the pound of Paris green, carefully sprayed on foliage, would surely kill our common leaf-eating insects. By using Paris green in the old-fashioned way I have usually had to take a pound of the poison to fifty gallons of water to be sure

of doing quick and effective work. The new way of using the drug, namely, dissolved in liquid ammonia and then diluted with water, cannot yet be recommended for general use. I have merely offered it as a suggestion for further experiment.

Using Poisons.

Perhaps it is only a notion of mine, but I have never been able to get over the idea that there is some element of deceitfulness, and therefore a little that is rather contemptible, connected with the use of poisons. No ordinary exigency would induce me to poison cats or dogs, or any other larger animal, and I have always been very slow to try poisons even on rats. Besides, there is this element of danger to ourselves and the members of the family, as also to domestic stock. It is not pleasant to have poisons and poisoned articles standing and lying around on one's premises. Our insect enemies, however, have driven us to such dire straits that the use of poisons, with all its risks, its disreputable flavor and all its consequences, is the only resort (the "ultimo ratio," as is said of the use of cannons) left us. It is either poison or defeat. In that extremity we naturally try to overcome our sentimental repugnance, and to save ourselves by poisoning our enemies.

Label Poisons.

As I have said before, it is not pleasant to have poisons and poisonous mixtures lying around loose on one's premises. For this reason I seldom buy or prepare much of it ahead of the time that I have immediate use for it. Such things as Paris green and arsenic in any form should be kept in strong boxes, cans or the like, plainly labeled "Poison," and stored out of reach of irresponsible persons, including, of course, the children. The Ohio station says: "The arsenite of soda may be prepared in any quantity desired, but being almost a clear liquid is somewhat dangerous to keep on hand. The danger may be obviated to some extent by coloring the liquid with some cheap aniline dye, using enough of the latter simply to give sufficient color so that no one would mistake the solution for an inoffensive drink. It takes but a short time, however, to prepare sufficient for a day's spraying, which is, perhaps, the least dangerous method. It is a rank poison, and should be properly labeled and carefully guarded, the same as all other poisons."

In a recent bulletin the Ohio state experiment station (Wooster, Ohio) speaks of arsenite of soda as a cheap substitute for Paris green. The directions for preparing this arsenite of soda are as follows: "Dissolve two pounds of commercial white arsenic and four pounds of carbonate of soda (washing soda) in two gallons of water, and use one and one half pints to a barrel of Bordeaux mixture (50 gallons). The easiest way to make the solution is to put both the white arsenic and carbonate of soda in a gallon of boiling water and keep boiling about fifteen minutes, or until a clear liquid is formed, and then dilute to two gallons. One and one half pints of this solution to each barrel of Bordeaux mixture is sufficient to use when spraying for potato-blight and potato-bugs, for apple-scab and apple-worms, or for any other purpose where a combination mixture for fungi and insects is required." While the solution of Paris green (in ammonia) must not be combined with the Bordeaux mixture, this arsenic and soda solution, or arsenite of soda, is more safely used in combination with that mixture than alone, as when in combination it will not injure the foliage, but alone it is liable to burn the leaves. It surely is good advice to use the combination mixture in every case where it is likely or even faintly suspected that both insect and fungous enemies are present. The treatment will do no hurt, and it insures the safety of our crops against both dangers. The extra cost is only trifling, anyway.

Ginseng-growing.

I have not yet freed myself from my earlier doubt that the cultivation of the ginseng-root is a sure road to riches. Possibly the careful cultivator may make ginseng-growing pay, but this will not be without great care, effort, and only after patient waiting. Don't imagine that the plant will succeed on any kind of soil or with

any kind of treatment. The directions for ginseng-growing given by Mr. Harlan P. Kelsey, of North Carolina, will give some idea of the care needed by the crop, and the time the grower will have to wait for returns. Mr. Kelsey says:

"First, where possible, select a cool, moist piece of ground, preferably where there is natural loam, or where the ground is loose and rich. Well-rotted stable manure is good for bringing up garden soil to a proper condition, as is also leaf-mold, rotted sods, etc. Sandy soil, if rich and moist, is not objectionable, but rather desirable. Plant in rows eight inches apart, four inches apart in the row, leaving an alley two feet wide every sixth row, thus making beds nearly eight feet wide, each with six long rows to the bed. Over these beds you can erect artificial shade by making lath covers with four-foot laths, one inch apart, on frames eight feet long and four feet wide, made out of two-inch strips one and one fourth inches thick; then put in posts along each side of the beds, five feet high, to which nail two-inch strips to support the lath frame. These frames will last for many years, and can be taken in in winter. If natural shade is provided under trees, frames, of course, are not needed; but it will always pay to have some shade that will keep the ground moist. Cultivation under the frames can thus be prosecuted without disturbing the shade. Keep the plants free of weeds, and cultivate the same as for any garden crop, and success should result."

For myself I prefer to go very slow engaging in this industry. T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Shipping Eggs. Among the inquiries received the past week are three about shipping eggs for hatching. I have tried over a dozen methods of wrapping and packing, with more or less success, and have finally adopted the following as best of all: Each egg is wrapped in, or rather rolled up in, a piece of soft paper about eight by twelve inches in size. At the large end of the egg this is doubled in and fits nearly close to it. At the small end it is twisted to a long point, maybe two inches long, and when the eggs are placed in the basket they are stood on this point of paper. About two inches of hay or straw, cut to half-inch lengths, is placed in the bottom of the basket, and a layer two inches thick around the sides. Then in the cozy, cushioned nest thus formed the eggs are placed as snugly together as possible. About two inches of the cut hay or straw is placed over them, two or three sheets of newspaper over this, and a piece of sheeting covering the whole and tucked in around the sides is sewed down as tightly as possible. A label or tag is pasted on the cloth or tied to the handle of the basket; the name and address of the party to whom they are consigned is written very plainly thereon, together with the words, "Eggs for hatching; handle with care," and they will go safely hundreds of miles.

When I ship to the Pacific coast, or where the eggs must be carried some distance by stage, I wrap each egg in three separate sheets of soft paper and work finely cut hay or straw among them when packing, and cover with at least three inches of the same material. Since adopting the foregoing method of packing no complaint of broken eggs has reached me, though I have sent them to all sorts of out-of-the-way places West and South, some being carried over a hundred miles by stage over terrible roads. Eggs shipped long distances seem to hatch very well, the average reported to me being nine out of fifteen.

Wheel-hoes.

It would seem that people are becoming more and more interested in wheel-hoes, or garden-cultivators, every year. Last summer I gave my views on wheel-hoes a thorough airing in these columns, and told all I knew about them; yet nearly every week I receive one or more letters, most of them containing no stamp for reply, asking from one to a dozen questions about garden-cultivators. I will give a general reply to those most frequently asked.

A high-wheeled hoe works about fifty per cent easier than one with low wheels. The wheels should be of iron. Wooden wheels are no good. If you can afford two wheel-hoes, get one with two wheels and one with a single wheel. If you can afford but one, by all means let it be a two-wheeled hoe. Keep the axles well oiled,

and all of the tools sharp and bright. Rub the hoes, etc., clean as soon as through with them, and then rub a greasy rag over them. Keep the nuts tight. Set the handles so that you stand in an easy position when the blades are on the ground. In hoeing, skim the surface not over half an inch deep; don't try to plow with the hoes. To mellow the soil only, use the rakes. In working a wheel-hoe, push it forward about a foot, draw it back about six inches, and at the same time take a short step forward. Repeat the operation, working the machine forward and back easily, lifting it a little as you draw it back, and you can hoe all day without blistering your hands or breaking your back. Never attempt to shove it along like a wheelbarrow, or you'll soon be laid up for repairs.

I keep the edges of all the cutting blades ground sharp and thin—wheel-hoes, hand-hoes, spades, shovels and spading-forks. For spading up the garden I have never found anything equal to a four or five tined manure-fork. If the soil is in good working condition it can be dug over and pulverized with a manure-fork easier and better than with any hand-tool I know of. If the soil is inclined to be heavy, it should be kept full of humus—well-decayed manure—and it will work nicely at almost any time.

Condition of Soil
and Crop Stand.

We have had several hard beating rains since the frost left the soil, and I notice that it is packed down rather firm. This will be a season that will test the skill of the farmer. To put the soil into first-class condition for planting to corn will take quick and timely work. When the soil reaches just the right stage or condition for plowing it will need to be turned rapidly and harrowed and planted at once. The soil will bake quickly, both before and after plowing, and thrice blessed will he be who does not undertake to handle more than he can. I expect to see considerable corn planted on cloddy land, and when it is in this condition the stand is certain to be poor. Whether the stand is first-class or very poor, the same amount of labor will have to be expended in cultivating it, and cultivating a half stand of corn is very discouraging to a man who has debts staring him in the face.

A young farmer said to me a few days ago: "I was offered sixty-five acres of land for corn at a very fair rental, but I declined it simply because I'm not fixed for handling that much land. I am going to put in thirty acres, and I know that I can manage that easily, get it plowed, harrowed and planted at the right time, and do it well enough to secure a full stand on the land. If I had taken the sixty-five acres I would simply have bitten off more than I could chew. I can grow thirty acres and get the full benefit of my labor by growing a full crop, while it would be impossible for me to obtain a full stand on sixty-five acres, or to cultivate it as it should be."

A great many farmers overlook the fact that it takes just as much plowing, harrowing, planting and cultivating to grow a half stand of corn, or in fact, any crop, as a full stand. A full stand probably means seventy bushels an acre; a half stand about thirty. So it will be seen that the man who grows the latter works for half pay. Tell this to a half-crop farmer and he would most likely get angry enough to injure your countenance.

It certainly was refreshing to hear a strong young man, the owner of three good horses, talk about sixty-five acres of land being more than he could properly manage. Most soil-tillers would call that just a nice little corn-patch, and would take it without a moment's hesitation. In a series of ten years they would probably obtain two full crops from it. These two years would be designated as "good" seasons, the others as "poor" ones. During the same years the thirty-acre corn-grower would probably grow eight good, full crops, and he would say we'd had eight "good" corn years and two "poor" ones. FRED GRUNDY.

BREVITIES.

The Velvet bean is reported a failure in California.

A number of skunk-farms have been started in various parts of the country, but, so far as we know, none have proved successful.—Rural New-Yorker.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

FARMING WITHOUT STOCK.—There is a rather general impression that a farm cannot be run in a safe and conservative way without live-stock upon it. Granting that sufficient stock should be kept on a majority of farms to consume the major part of the products of the soil, I am very sure that the fertility of many farms is not kept up in any considerable degree by the feeding that is done on them, and that there might be more profit if the stock which is kept for the purpose of using up the feed were not kept at all. Little care is taken of the manure, and what is saved is spread heavily on a small acreage, and yet the farmer who has such careless methods feels that there is some sort of a protection for the fertility of his fields in the fact that he "feeds upon the farm," regardless of the failure of half his fields to get any of the manure. So far as soil fertility goes, there is little virtue from feeding its products when the stock must take out one fourth of their strength, half the remainder is allowed to waste, and the remnant is dumped upon some small field near the barn. Certainly the fertility of farm-lands is not wholly dependent upon the residue from farm feeding, or half the acreage of this country would be absolutely sterile by this time. If some fields remain fertile without dressings of manure, then can other fields, and the presence of much live-stock is not an absolute necessity. I certainly do not want to be understood as being opposed to the idea of feeding, so far as it can be found profitable, nor do I underestimate the value of stable manure; I merely emphasize the fact that much land does not, and cannot in the very nature of things, receive its plant-food from the remains of our feeding, and that there must be other ways of getting available fertility. With this thought in mind, it is possible that some might get out of a rut that is irrational and unprofitable under their circumstances.

FEEDING WITHOUT PROFIT.—The chief object of feeding should be profit from the conversion of field crops into more concentrated forms for market. When stock can be kept with profit, there is a double profit from the farm—one from producing the crops and one from converting them into meat, milk, wool, etc. But I have in mind that considerable number of farmers that do not have profitable stock-farms, and yet feel obliged to keep stock for the sake of the manure, skinning all grass and clover-fields, and growing other forage for the maintenance of the stock. We want to bear in mind that stock add nothing to the quantity of plant-food in the forage, were it given directly to the soil, but that the feeding robs the average farm of more than half its strength. The stock takes part of it for its own use, and most farmers do not have perfect appliances for saving and applying the remainder. There is continual loss, the distribution is bad, usually, and if the cultivated field that grew a second crop of clover or a heavy aftermath of timothy could retain it as a mulch to be plowed under at the right time it would get far more fertility out of it than it ever would from the manure made by feeding it, and the distribution over the surface would be far more even. Nine times out of ten the field needs vegetable matter far more than anything else, and the idea that all growth should be passed through the stables means in actual practice the robbing of the field in respect to the very thing it most needs. If the feed is needed for stock that is going to bring a nice profit over all cost, that is another matter entirely; but where soil fertility is the main consideration, and cultivated crops are the farmer's source of income, he is on the wrong track when he puts labor on the harvesting of all manurial crops, only to have half the fertility lost by passing it through the stables. Soils may be fed as directly by plowing a growth under as by applying the manure gotten by feeding the growth, and the amount of plant-food secured by the first method is much the greater.

INDIVIDUAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—The man who can make two profits—one from his crop and one from its feeding—is more happily situated, as a rule, than the man who can make only one profit, because stock

is not profitable for him. But every man should modify his plans according to his peculiar circumstances, and should get away from the idea that there is anything "safe" in taking off a growth from his soil, feeding it without profit, returning about half the plant-food to the soil, and expecting that manure to furnish fertility for a crop of wheat or potatoes that he must sell off his farm. The manure from that unanurial crop only represents a portion of the fertility taken to the barn in the crop that he harvested for feed in order to get a supply of manure. There is in the soil large stores of unavailable fertility, and in the decay of the manurial crop some of the inert material in the soil is made available for use of plants. The vegetation plowed under also improves the mechanical condition of the land, and helps it to retain moisture during droughts. In this way the productiveness of soils is increased.

CHEMICALS AND CLOVER.—Stable manure is almost invaluable as a top-dressing for land that does not make a catch of clover readily. When the clover is gotten, it furnishes the needed humus, and stores nitrogen from the air. The disintegration of the stores of phosphoric acid and potash in the soil are rarely equal to the needs of plants for a maximum crop, though a good clover sod is fair insurance that a good crop of vegetables or grain will be gotten that season. As the clover furnishes the costliest element of a commercial fertilizer, nitrogen, rational fertilization then calls for nothing but phosphoric acid and potash, and in clay soil the latter is often in sufficient quantity when only the phosphoric acid is used. Acidulated rock furnishes the phosphoric acid, and can now be bought at a low price a unit. In such a scheme of supplying fertility the heavy sod or manurial crop is the foundation. In very many instances this organic matter, with the nitrogen obtained from the air, is all that is needed, and there is no expense for fertilizers. In the maintenance of fertility my preference would be for a farm on which I could afford to feed the crops and buy nitrogenous feeds, saving all the manure carefully. But the robbing of fields to get feed for unprofitable stock, for sake of manure, is irrational, and it is a strange thing that not a few continue the practice.

DAVID.

FROM WHENCE SHALL COME THE FARMER OF THE FUTURE?

The question of properly disposing of the vast increase in our population is one of great importance to the farmer. For several years there has been a decided disposition on the part of the farm-born boy to seek the city for his future occupation, and it is often the case that he starts as soon as he feels he is able to shift for himself. Plans without number have been tried to keep him at home to shoulder, at least, a portion of the responsibilities weighing heavily on the father. Agricultural college educations have been given to many of these boys in the hope that a scientific training in agriculture would lead them to see the possibilities yet in the farm, and learn the methods of putting them in operation. In some cases, it is true, all that was hoped for has been gained, but in too many cases the boys turn to some other branch of science and take it up as their life-work. It may be natural that our boys seek anything which promises a living rather than to continue what to them has seemed a life of drudgery; and then, too, there are cases where these boys are much better fitted for other occupations, and in such cases it is doubtless wise to allow the natural bent of the mind to take its course. Deprived of the hope of having our sons as successors on the farm we turn to the perennial scheme of colonization, thinking that here we may accomplish two things: Find a worthy man to continue our work and assist in relieving the sadly congested cities, turning these hundreds of half-starved men into healthy, respectable farmer-citizens. A little story just here will show how most of these colonization schemes turn out. A genial, whole-souled Friend, doing a large carriage business in one of the beautiful cities of Western New York, once needed for his business a dozen or fifteen men, and, as he was a true lover of nature as well as a much-traveled man, the thought occurred to him that an opportunity was at hand where he might indulge in a little philanthropy and transplant from New York City to the beautiful in-

land city the men he needed. Acting on the thought, he, with some difficulty, got a dozen men to go with him with their families. For each he provided a clean, comfortable cottage surrounded by trees, grass, flowers and fruits—an earthly Paradise compared with the homes they had left; but he could not keep them; one by one they drifted back to the great city, preferring the noise and bustle, even if cramped and dirty homes were all they could afford, to the sweetness and cleanliness of the home in the smaller city.

Other similar schemes, big and little, have had much the same ending, and we stand facing the old problem, what shall we do with our surplus population in towns and cities, and where shall farmers look for the assistance they need, and who will farm our lands when we are gone? Obviously there are but two plans by which we can continue farming profitably, one being the reduction in area to the point where we can give the soil the best possible care with the assistance at our command; intensive farming, in a word. The other plan is to handle the emigrant question promptly, and handle it without gloves. I have long thought that the solution of this problem was more nearly controlled by the agricultural interests of the country than by any other, and that the farmers of the country practically have the matter in their own hands. A bill now in the hands of a congressional committee by which it is proposed that our representatives abroad shall examine each person who contemplates becoming a permanent resident of the United States, and practically directing him where he shall locate on his arrival here, is a long stride in the right direction, but it does not go far enough, nor will proper steps for the solution of the difficulty be taken as long as the politicians of our great cities have the power to control bills which will permit them to bring people here from abroad solely for political purposes and after using them make more difficult the handling of overpopulated districts. Could our farmers have for assistants emigrants from the farming sections of Europe, men who have been trained from childhood to work in the soil, and well trained, too, as the majority of them are, we could easily adapt them to our methods and bring about results in farming now undreamed of. Then, too, our sons with agricultural college educations might feel that with the willing and capable help at their command they might make the scientific knowledge as profitable on the farm as elsewhere.

If we were willing to take up this problem individually and collectively we can accomplish vastly more than seems possible on the surface toward having Congress enact laws which, so long as we must have emigrants, will give us the desirable class; a few years of such a law in practice would do more toward relieving congested cities and short-handed farmers than all the colonization schemes that might be thought of in a decade. I do not think that I am alone in the thought that, aside from the question of the proper adjustment of our national system of finance, nothing demands the attention of our people so much as the question of properly regulating our laws regarding immigration, and if our farmers will take hold of the matter earnestly and unitedly they are strong enough to place upon the statute books any law they may choose to frame on this subject, if it be a just one, and they will have the assistance of a sufficient number of people of similar minds in other callings to make the majority an overwhelming one. The subject is worthy of thought and discussion.

GEO. R. KNAPP.

THE CULTIVATION OF PEANUTS.

The peanut is a ground pea or bean growing on small fibers sent out from the vines at the blossom-buds. There are several varieties, but the most productive and easiest grown are the large white found on the general market, and the small white, or Spanish, used in confectionery and for making oil. The large ones grow on creeping or running vines similar to sweet potatoes, while the small nuts are grown on upright vines about the height of Irish potatoes. I have grown eighty bushels on an acre with no more labor than that required for corn or common potatoes. The local market is always good, and raw nuts sell for ten cents a pound. A bushel weighs twenty-two pounds, thus producing \$176 to the acre. Roasted nuts bring a few cents more, but do not justify the out-

lay for roasters when only a few acres are grown for supplying local demands.

A warm sandy soil is best for peanut culture, and if a southern exposure can be had the yield is better and the quality superior. They demand little moisture, and cultivation should be abandoned after the blossoms appear, except what work is necessary to keep down weeds. The upright varieties admit of some hilling if the soil is loose and dry, but the seed-bed should not be disturbed after the root fibers begin entering the surface. If a shovelful of earth is thrown upon the hill of the creeping vines the fibers will make better nuts, as they are then held down and not uprooted by winds and other causes. I shell the nuts and plant in rows about thirty inches apart, hills fifteen inches in the row, two nuts in a hill, covering about two inches. April is a good time to plant, but in warm climates the nuts will mature if planted as late as July first. The only cultivation needed is plowing between the rows and keeping down weeds, which is done by hand and hoe. Some have the idea that the little yellow blossoms must be covered, which is a useless and expensive waste of time.

Harvesting may be done in September after the vines begin to turn brown, and the vines pulled by hand, plowed out as potatoes or uprooted with the potato-fork. The nuts will cling to the fibers, and all hang on the vines if the ground is loose and dry and contains plenty of sand. Three or four rows thrown together for two days will cure the vines and dry the nuts sufficient for hauling to the barn and yard. A hay-rack is the best bed for loading in, and a pitchfork the best tool. When the vines are in shelter the nuts may be picked off by hand at leisure and the vines fed to cows and sheep. Running the nuts through a fanning-mill is advisable to clean them of dust and sand and make them ready for market. For family use the nuts may be roasted in the cook-stove oven as coffee. Hogs, chickens and other farm animals are fond of peanuts and eagerly devour them raw or roasted. Seed can be obtained at about ten cents a pound from numerous seedsmen in the Southern and Central states.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

PICKED POINTS.

CRIMSON CLOVER AND THE ORCHARD.—Geo. T. Powell is one of the leading farmers of the state of New York. At a meeting of the Hudson Valley Horticultural Society lately he said he had sprayed his orchard, and sown it in crimson clover for ten years, and had nine successive crops of Esopus Spitzenburg apples. He says an analysis of his soil reveals that three years' use of crimson clover added 1,300 pounds of nitrogen to the soil an acre, worth \$200, while the humic acid set free 105 pounds of potash an acre more than there was in adjoining soil. And now he is wondering whether this system of cultivation will make his soil too fertile or not. For fear it will, he will not order and apply the car-load of ashes he intended. The apple-trees exhibit a healthful, promising thriftiness.

SINGED BACON.—It is not generally known that singed bacon is exported from this country to some extent, principally to France. Instead of being scalded and scraped, the hog is passed into a funnel-shaped receptacle heated to a white heat. After a given number of seconds the carcass is lowered from the singeing-machine and dumped into hot water, where it receives a scrubbing. So great is the heat to singe that sometimes the chain which hoists the pig is heated red-hot by its close proximity to the machine. This process gives the bacon a peculiar but very agreeable flavor, as the writer of this knows by experience, and he would eat no other bacon now if he could get this. French immigrants, when they settle in this country and grow hogs, generally singe those reserved for their own consumption. They throw straw on the carcass, and fire the straw, turning the carcass from time to time and adding more straw, until all the hair possible is singed off; then the hog is scrubbed and shaved until the skin is clean.

DR. GALEN WILSON.

CREAM SEPARATORS.—Inquirers for farm cream separators, hand and power, should consult our advertising columns, and send to the manufacturers for descriptive catalogues.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

FALL-PLOWED LAND.—It is really a pleasure, this spring, to work land that was plowed last fall. Most of our garden-patches were fall-plowed and then left in the rough. We began to plow and fit up a few long strips for early peas, onions (from sets), radishes and other early stuff, and found it an easy task, even when plowing with one horse. The ground broke up very nicely, loose and mellow. Besides, it was ready for work long in advance of the land that had not been fall-plowed. The latter we will have to plow mostly with two horses. In some years the difference between land that is fall-plowed and that which is not does not appear to be as great as it is this year, yet it is usually enough to pay for the extra labor of double plowing. A season like the present will have a tendency to make us all the more enthusiastic about fall-plowing, especially for garden crops. Field crops, however, will be benefited no less by it than garden crops.

TARRED PAPER COLLARS FOR CABBAGE-MAGGOT.—We have often suffered a good deal of loss on account of maggots destroying a large proportion of our early cabbages. If we believe what some of the experiment stations tell us, then the collars of tarred felt (roofing-felt) put around the stems of the plants near the surface of the ground are a very effective means of protecting cabbage and similar plants from the maggots' ravages. The reports show that the loss in treated fields have been very small. The labor of adjusting the collars also is inconsiderable. The only trouble seems to be to get the collars. They are not kept on sale so far as I know. So the only thing that I could see was left for me to do was to make them myself. As some of our readers probably know, Prof. E. S. Goff long since devised a tool to cut the collars out of sheets of roofing-felt with neatness and dispatch. I gave my blacksmith orders with full instructions to make one of these cutters after Goff's pattern, and expected to set a man at it to make the collars in rather large quantities so as to be able not only to have my own supply in readiness, but also to furnish them at a slight advance on cost to any of my neighbors and friends that might desire to try them. But it has taken my blacksmith much longer to get the tool made than I expected, and finally the time for using the collars has arrived and I have just received this "collar cutter." This sets the matter right, so far as my own planting is concerned, but I cannot help out my friends as promptly as I would have liked. Neither have I as yet been able to figure out the price at which the collars can be put on the market. I believe that they should be kept by seedsmen and plant-dealers, and that many could be sold at a good profit. Local plantmen might procure a cutter and furnish the collars to their customers.

TRELLISES FOR POLE LIMA BEANS.—One of our readers in Virginia sends me a circular in which he sings the praise of pole Lima beans, and also offers for sale farm rights of a slat trellis or frame to support growing plants and vegetables, particularly Lima beans. It consists of four vertical slats (leaning slightly outward) with horizontal connections and diagonal braces. Such a support will be very handy for tomato-plants where only few are grown, and plants thus supported will look very ornamental, no doubt. But for Lima beans I consider my post and wire trellis as good as anything I have yet seen, and surely as cheap. One of my garden-patches joins a small vineyard. At the opposite end and about in the middle of this patch strong posts are set in line with the grape posts, the end post being well braced. All these posts are left from year to year. The wires are removed in the fall, rolled up and put away for safe-keeping. In the spring the ground is plowed, fitted and planted, the rows marked by the posts being left for Lima beans again. In latter part of May the beans are planted, the wire put back, and when the plants are up nicely the twine or string (I usually take cheap wool or binder twine) is wound around the two wires zigzag fashion. All this is very little trouble, the same rows being used without change for Limas for a number of years. It is an ornamental and handy trellis.

THE BLACK SQUASH-BUG.—I have two letters asking for a remedy for the black squash-bug. One writer says that these bugs "eat the vine off close to the ground." This probably is a mistake. The black squash-bug is a true bug. It does not eat, but gets its substance by sucking. If vines were eaten off close to the ground, it must have been by the yellow-striped cucumber (or squash) beetle, which eats the foliage, or by cut-worms. Squash-vines are usually infested by both enemies. The only way that I know of successfully fighting the large black bug is by hand-picking. This is not such a terrible job, either, but it has to be done promptly and persistently. We do not like to touch the ill-smelling things with bare hands. One good way to get around it is to make a pair of wooden tongues or tweezers, and to pinch and mash the bugs as fast as found. I take a can or small pail containing a little kerosene, put on rubber gloves, or at least one of them, and then pick the bugs off the plants or the ground and throw them into the can. That disposes of them without fail. One should make a regular chore of this job, like milking or feeding pigs. Just as long as bugs are found on the plants the latter should be looked over twice a day and all bugs carefully picked off and destroyed. This task gives also a good chance to watch the vines for the spotted beetle, and perhaps for other enemies. The yellow-spotted cucumber-beetle killed a large proportion of my squash-vines last year in spite of great efforts made to save them. It was the first time that I can remember of heavy applications of tobacco-dust failing to completely protect the plant.

GROWING CABBAGES.—A good article on raising cabbages on a large scale is wanted by a reader. Well, if one knows how to raise cabbages successfully on a small scale he should be able to raise them on a large scale, too. The process is the same. You want rich land. Manure and cultivation makes cabbages. Early cabbages are most profitable for us to grow. In some places not far from here late cabbages are the ones people grow for shipment to the cities on a very large scale. Which of the two you decide to grow must depend on what your market opportunities are. The great job in growing early cabbages is to raise the plants. We start ours in the greenhouses in March, using mostly Early Jersey Wakefield, then transplant to cold-frame in April and to open ground latter part of April. If the plants were well hardened before being set into open ground they will have no difficulty in getting established and to get to growing again promptly. The chief trouble is with the maggot, as already explained. When you have no greenhouse, the plants will have to be started in hotbeds, or perhaps in cold-frame (in the fall before), and wintered over. We set the plants in rows three feet apart and almost two feet apart in the row. A pinch of nitrate of soda (say a small tablespoonful) scattered around each plant often has a wonderful effect, and thorough cultivation and frequent hoeing is necessary for best results. Our friend asked particularly about the green cabbage-worm and how to save the cabbages from this pest. In very large fields there will hardly be much trouble from this source. The butterflies lay their eggs scattering, mostly near the outside of the field. In smaller patches the plants are often badly eaten up; but we have so many effective means of fighting these worms that there is really no excuse of letting them destroy any considerable part of our crops. Spraying with salt-water, tobacco-water, hot water or soap-suds, or dusting with tobacco-dust (very freely) will kill the worms. On late cabbages I will have more to say in a later issue.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

GRAPES IN MASSACHUSETTS.

From bulletin 44 of the Massachusetts Agricultural College we learn that the following varieties of grapes were so badly injured by the winter of 1896-97 that they did not produce any fruit this season: Arnold's No 1, Black Eagle, Caywood's No. 50, Creveling, Highland, Mills, Rockwood, Centennial, Diana, Jefferson, Amber, Belinda, Duchess, Eldorado, Empire State, Pearl, Triumph, Victoria and Wilding. The Concord and similar varieties in the college vineyard were not injured.

Among the new varieties that have fruited may be mentioned the following:

Brilliant—Vine a moderately vigorous grower, not quite hardy, but little subject to disease. Bunch and berry medium size, of good quality; skin thick, tough, of a brilliant red color. Season a little later than the Delaware. Promising.

Emma—Vine not very vigorous, quite hardy and subject to disease. Bunch small; berry medium, of a bright yellow color. Quality good, drops from bunch badly, a poor keeper. Of no special value.

Geneva—Vine moderately vigorous, very hardy and free from disease. Bunches medium, loose; berries large, light-yellow color; quality good, but not the best, adheres well and is an excellent keeper, very productive, ripening a little earlier than the Concord. Promising on account of its hardiness, freedom from disease and good shipping qualities.

Herman Jaeger—Very disappointing. Bunches average but little more than one ounce each, and the quality could not be called good.

Maria Louise—Vine rather weak grower, very hardy and but little subject to disease. Bunch good size, shouldered, compact; berries medium size; color white; skin thin, good quality. A good grape, but unlikely to prove of any great value.

In most cases there are two vines of each variety, one of which has been sprayed for several seasons, while the other has been left unsprayed. There was a very marked difference in the hardiness of the sprayed and unsprayed vines of the same variety. In many cases the sprayed vine bore a good crop, while the unsprayed was barren. The cause of this is apparent. The sprayed vines being free from disease hold their foliage longer and are thus enabled to ripen their wood and develop their buds to a greater extent than those which lose their leaves while the wood is green and the buds are immature. It is unquestionable that ripe buds and mature buds are less liable to injury by frost than green wood and immature buds. The beneficial effects of proper spraying are even more noticeable in the crop of the year following the treatment than at the time of application. In seventy-two of the varieties, the seventy-two sprayed vines produced 725 clusters, weighing 187 pounds, while the seventy-two unsprayed produced 743 clusters, weighing 118 pounds, 4 ounces.

RASPBERRIES.

King—This is a vigorous variety, but was much injured by the winter and was not productive.

The older varieties retain about the same relative position, and their descriptions may be found in former reports.

Miller—Moderately vigorous and productive. It is above the average in hardiness, but the uncovered canes were considerably injured. Promising.

Crimson Beauty, Naomi, Rancocas and Scarlet Gem have been discarded as valueless. Gladstone, Thompson's Prolific and Victor are of little value here.

Louden—A very vigorous and productive variety. It was very little injured by the past winter, while many of the standard varieties suffered severely. Fruit large, firm, bright crimson; quality best. The most promising variety in the station collection.

BLACKBERRIES.

The blackberry crop of the past season was very good, the hardier varieties suffering but little from winter-killing.

RESULTS OF SPRAYING.

The results of spraying during the past season to protect crops from insects and fungous pests again show the great benefit derived from this work.

All of the fruit and vegetable crops grown on the college grounds generally injured by the above pests were treated according to the spraying calendar of 1896, and in most cases with marked beneficial results, only one illustration of which will be offered.

SPRAYING APPLE-TREES.

Four Baldwin and five Rhode Island Greening apple-trees were selected; three of the former and four of the latter variety were sprayed, leaving as a check one tree of each kind.

Results: The trees sprayed gave results as follows: Baldwin, 3.37 per cent more picked apples, 16 per cent less windfalls, 60 per cent less wormy fruit and 93 per cent less scabby fruit than the unsprayed trees; Rhode Island Greening, 100 per

cent more picked fruit, 49 per cent less windfalls, 81 per cent less wormy fruit and 72 per cent less scabby fruit.

Equally good results were obtained with many other kinds of fruit.—Bulletin 44, Massachusetts Agricultural College.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Katydid Eggs.—S. B. C., Quicksburg, Va. The large, flat eggs on the twig of Mammoth chestnut, which you think a scale or other insect, are the eggs of the common katydid.

Seedling Apricots.—R. W. F., Blackwell, Okla. Seedling apricots will bear even if not budded. They can, however, be budded the same as the peach or plum and just as easily.

Spraying Plums for Curculio.—H. L., Paris, Ohio. My experience in spraying plums has led me to believe that there is no satisfactory spray that can be used on them to prevent the work of the curculio, which is the insect that causes the fruit to fall to the ground prematurely and to rot. The best way to keep this pest in check is by jarring the trees. An article on this subject will appear in a near number of FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Grafting-wax.—J. Y., Linndale, Kan. A very good grafting-wax is made as follows: Resin, four parts by weight; beeswax, two parts; tallow, one part; melt together and pour into a pail of cold water; then grease the hands and pull the wax just the same as molasses-candy is pulled until it is light-colored. A very good wax for general use. If too hard, add a little more tallow; if too soft, add more resin.

Plums for Market.—R. B. C., Morrice, Mich. I think you would make no mistake in planting the following plums for market. Field, Bradshaw and perhaps Archduke for early, and Copper, Hudson River, Purple Egg and Italian Prune for late. You could perhaps raise more Lombards than any other kind that could be planted, but it ripens when the market is glutted, and does not sell well. Try Archduke.

Fruiting Wood of Raspberries and Blackberries.—H. H., Clarkdale, Iowa. The raspberries and blackberries make wood one year that fruits the next. Each cane lives two years and fruits the second year. Occasionally the new growth of raspberries and blackberries fruits the autumn of the first year, and may then fruit the next year also, but it is not the rule. The latter is the case of the varieties that fruit in autumn as well as summer.

Diseased Rose-bush.—A. D. P., Pleasanton, Tex. I think your roses are injured by some fungous disease. I think I should spray as soon as they start with Bordeaux mixture, beginning when they bud nicely, and applying it two or three times at intervals of ten days. If you have any now that are affected I wish you would send me about six inches of the diseased stem with a few leaves. I prefer leaves on which the disease is just beginning. You had better apply Bordeaux mixture at once.

San Jose Scale.—T. C. R. There is no satisfactory remedy for the San Jose scale. If young trees are infested they should be dug and burned. The best remedy is perhaps to apply clean kerosene in the winter on windy days when it will evaporate quickly. Whale-oil or fish-oil soap is probably the best known summer remedy. The reason why these remedies are not satisfactory is because they are never applied thoroughly enough to kill every scale, and the few left breed so fast as to soon replace those killed.

How Are You This Spring?

Tired, nervous?
Can't get rested?
Tortured with boils, humors?

That is not strange. Impurities have accumulated in your blood and it has become impoverished. This is the experience of most people. Therefore they take Hood's Sarsaparilla to purify their blood in spring.

TIRED ALL THE TIME

"I was feeling very miserable. I was tired all the time, had no appetite and felt sore all over my body. I had backache so badly that when I stooped down I was hardly able to straighten up again. I could hardly do my work and was just making up my mind to give up work when I noticed an advertisement of Hood's Sarsaparilla. I read it through and determined to try a bottle of this medicine. When I had finished the bottle I felt a great deal better. I did not stop my work, and after I had taken the third bottle I felt as well and strong as I ever did in my life. JOHN J. EICH-BANER, 928 Meldrum Ave., Detroit, Mich.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is America's Greatest Medicine. Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Get only Hood's.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Our Farm.

RURAL NOTES.

WIND-BREAKS.—The gradual destruction of forests is making the subject of wind-breaks of increasing importance. I find that the arbor-vitae is, all in all, the best plant that we can use for protection against the west winds. This evergreen grows so erect as to take little room. When twenty feet high it still presents the appearance of a hedge. I know of no other evergreen that on this account is so useful. It stands densely; there is no tendency for the limbs to either die out or break down. I am using the same evergreen to shelter semi-hardy trees from the winter sun. Not a few of our plants, especially peaches, demand more protection from thawing out in winter than from severe freezing. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the value of the arbor-vitae for the purposes that I have named.

COMPOST HEAPS.—The importance of compost piles I have long felt, but the subject has grown upon me of late, especially the value of those materials which are generally neglected or thrown away. On my four acres of berry-gardens I regularly make, during the summer, five piles, which are applied in the late autumn. These heaps are made of weeds, sods, manure from the barn, coal-ashes, old lime and all sorts of waste and refuse. One of them is so arranged as to take the sewer-waste from the house. The value of coal-ashes in these piles is very great. These piles are never stirred during the summer, but are forked over and comminuted in the fall, just before application. No harm is done by growing a good crop of squashes or melons on the piles during the summer.

APPLE STORAGE.—Not one cellar in twenty is properly constructed to make a good fruit-storage room. I have found it necessary to construct an apple cellar under my barn. Through this I have allowed a stream of water to run, because a degree of dampness is needful to prevent fruit in shrinking. The floor of this cellar is not grouted. The apples are stored in bins about eight inches in depth, but none of the bins are placed directly on the floor. Apples properly sorted in the fall remain through the winter almost absolutely without waste. It is very desirable to have your apples in good shape for sale in early spring, before those kept in cold storage are turned onto the market.

STANDARD APPLES.—After a good deal of experimenting with the newer apples I am convinced that the best six for family use in winter, and for market as well, are the King, Spy, Spitzenburg, Baldwin and Greening, for sour apples; and for sweet apples, Pound Sweet, for early use, and the Belle Bonne, for late use. This last apple is a great keeper, of most delicious quality and a great bearer. It is an old Connecticut fruit, that has been crowded out of sight by inferior sorts. To this list, if I wish to add, I would select Hubbardston, Nonesuch and Seek-No-Farther, as two apples almost sure to return clean crops. It is remarkable how well these apples resist the attacks of insects and fungi. I do not get as good crops of the old Roxbury russet as formerly, or I would place this as invaluable. For cooking, Grimes' Golden Pippin ranks next to the Spitzenburg. For table fruits nothing surpasses Wagener.

STANDARD GRAPES.—The list of grapes has grown so enormously in our catalogues as to puzzle those who desire to plant a few varieties for home use. Few people have time and room to experiment with a long list. I have about eighty varieties growing, all thoroughly tested. I would select as a list of hardy excellent varieties for everybody to plant: Worden, black; Brighton, red; Niagara, white; Herbert, black; Eldorado, white; Vergennes, red; Geertner, red, and for very late keeping it would be well to add the Alice. It must be borne in mind that Brighton will not pollinize itself, and must be planted in close proximity with other varieties. The Herbert is also somewhat defective as a pollinizer. This list may be added to by those who desire to plant a few more va-

rieties for extra care. If so, select Goethe, Iona, the best of all grapes, Jefferson, a good rival for Iona, and Duchess. These must all be covered in winter, except the Jefferson. The vine and bud of the Jefferson are perfectly hardy, but the grapes require a long season to perfect themselves. The hardiest of all grapes in my whole list is the Pocklington; it bears magnificently; a grape that to my taste is very delicious, but it is not liked by all. But it must be borne in mind that the Pocklington needs a long season in order to perfect itself.

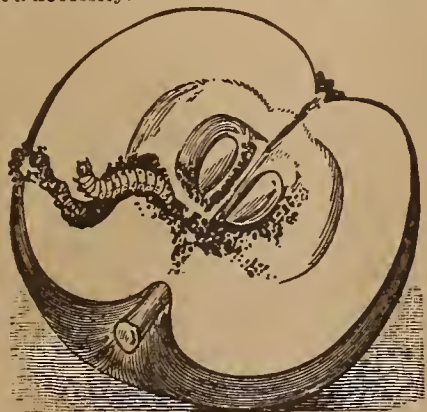
SUNSHINE AND FRESH AIR.—The building of country houses should always have two objects in view; plenty of sunshine and fresh air, and plenty of verandas and porches. Unfortunately these seem to be the last things thought of. The wife of Admiral Dahlgren, when asked how she could afford to give up the largest room in her house for a nursery, replied: "Give it up? What is my home for? The rule in our household is sunshine and fresh air for the children's rooms. The question is how perfectly shall each little soul drink, eat and be clothed in sunshine the whole year through." Dr. Hammond says "Brains need to be saturated with sun."

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.—The establishment of postal savings banks is meeting with the endorsement of all classes. The Farmers' Club, of Central New York, recently passed this resolution: "Resolved, that we most strenuously urge the establishment of postal savings banks as a safe place for the deposit and investment of the small savings of the common people." The establishment of rural telephone circuits has gone on during the past year with astonishing rapidity. Ten years ago we knew of but one in the United States; now there are hundreds, if not thousands, in New York state alone. These circuits are made to connect remote farm-houses not only with each other, but with villages. In this way the farmer can consult the doctor or inquire about markets without delay. But probably the best feature of this new social evolution is the fact that it is breaking up the isolation of farm life. It permits easy and constant communication between houses two or three miles apart. In my own house my boys are accustomed to play on musical instruments for the pleasure of listeners scattered over the hills miles away. Each circuit should consist of not more than eight or ten instruments; but circuits can be connected by means of a central station. In all cases some one should have charge of the instruments and the lines, to keep them in repair.

MERCHANT MARINE.—Agriculture in America is at last thoroughly aroused to the necessity of commanding the world's markets. It has over seventy per cent of the exports of the last five years to its credit. In fact, without the strenuous efforts of agriculture the trade balance would be invariably against the United States. What we need now is to rebuild our commercial marine, so that when we get our crops to the seaboard we shall not need to have them carried abroad in foreign bottoms. This takes largely from our profits. In 1860 we had a commercial marine nearly equal that of England; now we have less than half the ocean tonnage that we had one hundred years ago. We must insist upon the rebuilding of our merchant marine; it is a vital point for agricultural prosperity.

SPRAYING FRUIT TREES.

The question of spraying fruit trees to prevent the depredations of insect pests and fungus diseases is no longer an experiment but a necessity.



Our readers will do well to write Wm. Stahl, Quincy, Ill., and get his catalogue describing twenty-one styles of Spraying Outfits and full treatise on spraying the different fruit and vegetable crops, which may be had for the asking and contains much valuable information.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM IOWA.—The spring opened early in southern Iowa. A large breadth of oats and wheat was sown; the largest for several years. The ground was in good order, breaking up lively and mellow; whereas last season it broke up exceedingly cloddy, the clods not melting until mellowed by the action of freezing. The drought of last year will not be a wholly unmixed evil. The crops were not large enough to exhaust the soil to a large extent, and, reverting to the experience of four years ago, the drought of which was followed by a plenteous yield, the outlook is very encouraging. Last year's drought effects are now plainly seen. Young orchards planted in the spring have suffered a large loss. A plant to be hardy with us must be able to withstand drought as well as the cold of winter. Indeed, many plants which endure with impunity our severest cold, perish, root and branch, in a drought. The hardy hydrangea is one; the Japanese snowball is another. These must be watered regularly in such a time, or they will perish. The drought, however, assisted in ripening the growth of new wood. From present appearances the fruit-buds are in first-class condition. The buds of all pit fruits are green throughout. Through the three lower tiers of counties last year was measurably an off year for apples. Innumerable fruit-buds are now plainly to be seen. One great drawback to our orchards is that the trees have exhausted the first properties of the soil. Each tree should have a large load of manure. Where this has been applied the trees responded promptly in larger crops and better quality of fruit. Just at present there is a great boom in cattle, especially in cows. Creameries are thickly located all over the country, and one may see milk-cans at nearly every farmstead gate. With many the monthly sales amount to a respectable pension. The sale of milk and poultry products more than defray the family and running expenses, leaving the larger industries free for other purposes. Yearlings are bringing from \$20 to \$25, and are very scarce at that price. Cows run from \$30 to \$50, and but few for sale. Horses, too, are advancing in price. The average farmer has neither the facilities for training roadsters nor the time, hence he is by the force of circumstances compelled to raise large horses. It is the general opinion among farmers that horses which weigh from 1,600 pounds and upwards are the ones to raise. Such a horse will readily bring \$100; whereas three years ago they were slow sale at \$50, the fewest number bringing \$75. It will be years before we shall have as many horses as there were five years ago. The days of scrubs of anything are over. Ponies and scrub horses are frequently sold at \$10, \$15 and \$20; the last being for the best class. It is the same with cattle. The drought of four years ago caused a stampede of cattle to localities where feed was more plentiful. It will be some years before the old number is regained. A very strong effort is being made among farmers to improve their breeds of cattle, and very large prices are paid for thoroughbreds. A year ago hog-cholera destroyed many herds of swine, and they are comparatively scarce. Farmers are afraid to venture in this direction to any great extent. The best authorities we have are unanimous in expressing that there is no cure for this disease. The pound of preventive is the one thing needful. It is my opinion that wood-ashes, charcoal and charred corn should be liberally fed to them. Upon my farm this has always been the practice and there has never been a single case of swine-plague upon it. We have raised, too, a great many hogs. Sheep are becoming great favorites on many farms. The flocks are steadily increasing in number and size. All sheepmen agree in this, that there is more profit in a flock of sheep than in anything else of the same original cost. Pure breeds are in demand. Such as combine size of body with a good fleece are the greater favorites.

Knowlton, Iowa.

E. B. H.

FROM CENTRAL MINNESOTA.—This section of the country is prairie-land, interspersed with numerous lakes surrounded by timber. The soil is very fertile, producing fine crops of wheat, oats, flax, barley, garden-truck and the early varieties of corn. The price of land here ranges from \$10 to \$25 an acre, according to location and improvements, and is equally as good as land in the southern part of the state or in Iowa which sells for \$40 an acre. Hoffman is located 145 miles northwest of Minneapolis, on the Soo Pacific railroad. The people here are largely Scandinavians, with some Germans, Americans and Irish. They are very hospitable and social and are on the whole a fine class of citizens. I have bought a farm here within the past two years, and like the country.

Hoffman, Minn.

W. H. H.

FROM NEBRASKA.—Kearney county is a fine country. The soil is rich and well adapted to cultivation. Our principal crops are corn, oats, wheat and hay. We are midway between the Platte and Republican rivers. The main line of the B. and M. railroad from Omaha to Denver gives us an excellent transportation for our products. The price of land is from \$40 to \$50 an acre.

J. P. J.

Minden, Neb.

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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

SUMMER FEEDING FOR EGGS.

THE best food for the warm season is that which gives the best results without regard to the cost. Which food is the best, however, is the main point which is to be decided. Any advice on this subject imparted to one may not be suitable to another, as difference in location of farms, breeds and many other circumstances govern. Some farms are small, the fowls having but a limited space, while on others it is necessary to confine the fowls in small yards, in order to protect the garden, and again there are farms upon which the fowls have unrestricted liberty. In every case the food must conform to the conditions. If there is room for a range the hens will require no food, but if the birds are confined, then good judgment is necessary to feed correctly, so as to avoid throwing the layers out of condition, as they will look for their food from the owner instead of endeavoring to seek it. If fed on grain in the warm seasons they must have a variety in order to reduce the grain supply usually eaten, and also for dietary effects, green food being essential. If this is given it must be done so as not to allow too much. If the hens are not fed too liberally they will work at scratching, which is the best indication of health that can be observed. The hens that are on a range should lay through the whole summer, and the cost of the eggs should be little or nothing. If anything is allowed let it be lean meat, or green bone well covered with meat, cut fine, no fat being given, as they can easily procure carbonaceous substances from the range. In this connection it may be stated that meat is the best egg-producing food known, and only its cost deters poultrymen from using it generally. Its cost, however, depends upon the result in eggs obtained. As has been stated before, if each hen in the flock can be induced to lay one more egg a week she will pay for her food. This depends upon the prices of eggs, but the cost also depends upon the expense for food. Meat for a small flock can be procured as scraps from a butcher, but for a hundred hens it will cost more. Ground dry meat is an excellent food also, but it cannot be compared to fresh lean meat. Allowing ten cents a pound for lean meat (say the neck portion or liver), and giving six pounds at night to one hundred hens, the cost will be sixty cents a day, but the meat need only be given three times a week. If eggs are twenty cents a dozen it will pay well. The point is that the gain is not in the extra eggs so much as inducing the hens to lay when they are not producing at all.

POULTRY AT THE STATIONS.

Within the past three years the experiment stations have given much attention to poultry, and the wise professors who had exhausted the field of cattle-feeding were surprised at the amount of work on their hands in the poultry line. They found that there were a thousand and one little details they had never anticipated; and instead of winding up the experiments in a few months they have been compelled to go on with their work for several years before they can give results. The consequence is that a great interest is being created in poultry, and those who supposed that there was little or nothing to do have discovered that they have more to learn of poultry than of larger stock.

BEAUTIFUL GOLDEN BROWN BREAD.

If farmers generally would eat the delicious, muscle-building, health-giving bread made from the Franklin Mills Fine Flour of the Entire Wheat there would not be a tithe of the indigestion and dyspepsia that prevails so generally in most farming communities.

We are glad, however, to note that in the best farming centers, as well as in the towns and cities, it is becoming fashionable to use the beautiful golden brown bread made from the flour referred to above; and as a result there is an advance in healthfulness and a corresponding decrease in the severeness of the doctors.

Write to The Franklin Mills Co., Lockport, N. Y., mentioning FARM AND FIRESIDE and ask for their booklet giving much valuable information. It might be well also for you to ask how you may secure the flour in case your local dealer does not handle it.

POULTRY-HOUSES.

The simplest poultry-house is the best. Better results have been obtained by using the old and well-known plan of having a house eight feet in front and six feet in the rear, ten or twelve feet square, with a window on the south side than from any other, and such a house costs but little, holding a flock of from a dozen to twenty fowls. The poultry-house for a cold climate may be plastered, as warmth will always be a prime factor in egg-production in winter, and the plastered walls will be of immense advantage in preventing lice from hiding in summer. One of the points to observe is that a good shed is better in summer than a close house, and will cost but little. It must be tight at the back and sides, as drafts of air, even in warm seasons, will do damage. Fowls can endure cold weather or stand the warmest days of summer, but will not thrive where drafts of air come on them at night. The cost of a poultry-house is the matter that causes the beginner to consider. It is not necessary to bother about ventilators and other appliances. Make the house as simple in design as possible, and the cost will be a minimum and the fowls comfortable. Get a hardy breed, leave the doors and windows open at night, clean frequently, so as to prevent foul odors, use plenty of whitewash, and the fowls will not be unthrifty in a cheap house.

SELECTING A BREED.

To arrive at a correct estimate of the number of eggs a breed will lay in a year is not possible. A flock of Light Brahmas kept by one person may lay more eggs than a flock kept by another, and Leghorns managed by an experienced farmer may lay more eggs than Light Brahmas. The fact is that there is not ten eggs difference in a year between the best breed and the lowest that may be selected; if it should be claimed that the Leghorns were the best layers, those who keep other breeds will immediately assert that the claim is incorrect. Again, sometimes one hen may lay 150 eggs in a year, but it is a good flock that will lay 120 eggs a year on an average for each hen. About 100 eggs a year may be fixed upon as the average a hen for a large flock, and which breed will lay the most is unknown, as the difference, if any, is so close. One would hesitate to select the highest number, even if compelled, as it cannot be done correctly.

THE EARLY CHICKS.

As some hens will now begin to sit, the month of May will come in with a lot of chicks hatching. There is no necessity of losing any of them, even if weather is cold at times. Have a warm shelter for the hens and broods, and be careful of dampness. Do not feed too much, as the digestive capacity of a chick does not equal the estimate of those who keep them full of food. They need no food for thirty-six hours, as nature makes provision for their first meals. Feed four times a day during the first two weeks, then only three times a day. Never allow food to be left over. Feed stale bread, cooked potatoes, chopped cooked meat, sifted ground oats, and as they get older add cracked corn and wheat.

PURE BREEDS OF DUCKS.

The pure breeds of ducks are kept more profitably than the puddle-ducks, as they can be made to thrive without providing ponds. The breeds best known, and which are the most popular, are the Pekin, Aylesbury, Rouen and Cayuga, the first two breeds being white in color, the Cayuga being black, while the Rouen has a plumage of several colors. These breeds grow to a large size, and individual specimens have reached ten pounds in weight. As they grow rapidly they reach the market at an early age.

DORKING FOWLS.

The poultryman who is making eggs his specialty should pay no attention to market quality. Over in England the Dorking is the only fowl recognized as being worthy the name of "table fowl." The English farmer who sends eggs to market will keep Hamburgs, Red Caps, Leghorns, or any good breed which lays a large number of eggs in a year, but he always has a few Dorkings, also, for table use. He does not regard them as prolific layers, and if he receives eggs from them it is not that he regards them as great producers, but be-

cause they will naturally lay a sufficient number for reproduction. Their purpose is to provide a choice carcass for the table, which is all that is required of them. The eggs are expected from the other breeds, as that is their duty, the Dorking being reserved for the table and for market.

ECONOMY IN MANAGEMENT.

The profits will not be large if the expenses are not kept down. The loss from useless males, hens that do not lay, and chicks that make no growth, sometimes balances the profits produced by the profitable hens. There will be some good hens in all flocks, and they give large profits for the entire year, but the expenses due to keeping fowls that produce nothing lead the inexperienced to attach the fault to the whole, the good as well as the inferior, when the best course is to dispose of all but the ones that are paying for the shelter and food bestowed.

BRAN AS POULTRY FOOD.

Bran is a good food because it contains more mineral matter than the ordinary ground food, and provides the hens with the substances required. It is not proper to feed it every day, however, as it is better to avoid the use of concentrated foods in summer to a certain extent, but a mess of bran three times a week will be found beneficial. To six quarts of bran add one pound of linseed-meal, giving a pound of the mixture to twenty hens, allowing no other food during that day. Moisten it slightly, and feed at night, just before the fowls go on the roost.

CORRESPONDENCE.

In the FARM AND FIRESIDE, of March 1st, I noticed that "Mrs. J. H." Galetton, Pa., writes, "I sold, from seven hens, sixty-seven dozens of eggs in one year and I set three hens, realizing \$34.00, besides supplying my family with plenty." Now the number of eggs is not remarkable, but the amount obtained from them is. How does it happen that she gets fifty cents a dozen for her eggs? Our average for the eggs sold at the store would be about twelve cents, and you could not get over twenty the year round for supplying private families. I would like to know how she manages to make her eggs bring her over fifty cents a dozen the year round. E. F. M. Chillicothe, Ohio.

CROP-BOUND.—I saw in a recent number of your paper the question asked by one, "What will cure crop-bound in poultry?" I will give a remedy which never failed me. Give a crop-bound fowl one teaspoonful of hog's-foot oil and work the crop to soften it; one dose is all that is necessary, but it can be repeated in case of failure at first. MRS. J. N. B. Farmville, N. C.

A ROUP REMEDY.—I am glad to give a good remedy for diphtheria or roup in chickens. I open their mouths, then fill their throats with dry sulphur. If their eyes are swollen anoint with sweet-oil and a drop of carbolic acid. M. A. P. Dukedom, Tenn.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Lice.—C. A. F., Fruitville, Cal., writes: "What is the best remedy for chickens that have lice on them?"

REPLY:—Dust them two or three times a week with fresh Dalmation insect-powder and make the poultry-house clean and free of lice. For the large lice on the heads rub a few drops of olive-oil or melted lard.

Cholera and Gapes.—Mrs. S. M. D., Goose Creek, W. Va., writes: "What is best to prevent cholera, and what is a good remedy for gapes? My chickens are droopy, and their crops are full of food."

REPLY:—The difficulty is not cholera, but indigestion, due to frequent feeding and mostly of grain. The remedy is to reduce the food, also change from grain to grass and lean meat. Gapes in chicks are sometimes cured by giving each a drop of spirits turpentine on a bread-crumbs twice a day.

Probably Roup.—W. P. K., Dorry, Pa., writes: "I have lost several hens since last September. First, they refuse food, begin to mope around and finally die. I have a warm coop and give a variety of food. Can you give the cause?"

REPLY:—The symptoms described are not sufficient to state the cause, as the mode of management should have been mentioned, such as shelter, kind of food, etc. The cause is probably roup, which has been frequently described in this department, though the large lice on the heads may be at fault.

A COUGH SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. "Brown's Bronchial Troches" are a simple remedy and give immediate relief. Avoid imitations.



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on the refuse of wheat when properly milled, as all food-value is extracted. But children grow healthy and strong on the bread made from

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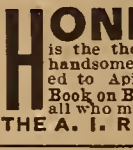
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and how to get it is the theme of Gleanings in Bee Culture. A handsomely illustrated Monthly Magazine devoted to Apiculture. Free sample, together with Book on Bee Supplies and Book on Bee Culture to all who mention this paper when writing. **THE A. I. ROOT CO., - MEDINA, OHIO.**

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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Cow-peas for Red-clay Soil.—G. W. B., of Doddsville, Va. Sow Black or Whippoorwill or other good cow-peas at the rate of one bushel an acre.

Cottage Cheese, Junket, etc.—J. S., Park Ridge, Ill. Send to Chr. Hansen's Laboratory, Box 1102, Little Falls, N. Y., for pamphlet on rennet extracts and tablets for making junket, cottage cheese and other curdled milk products.

Home-made Brooder.—F. H., of Washington, Ill., asks for the address of the maker of the brooder illustrated in the FARM AND FIRESIDE of February 15, 1898.

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—I have had several such inquiries. I do not know of any one making and offering this brooder for sale, but gave full details about building one at home. I made one for my own use, and so can anybody. The lamp can be bought from one of the builders of brooders, whose addresses one finds in the agricultural papers.

Onion Queries.—J. T. S., of Roodhouse, Ill., writes: "(1) Is there any onion that takes two years from sowing seed to mature? If so, where can I get the seed? (2) How can I raise bottom-sets (onions) this year for next year's planting?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—(1) The onion is a biennial. It makes a bulb in one season, and seeds the next. By dwarfing it we might make the period of development three years. In other words, we could grow sets in one year, full-sized bulbs the next and seed from these (if we manage right to keep them over) the third year. (2) Onion-sets are grown much in the same way as ordinary onions in the old way, only seed is sown at the rate of about sixty pounds to the acre. You must crowd the plants to make the bulbs small. Gather in the fall, cure well, and keep in thin layer in a dry, cool room, or let them freeze, cover and keep frozen until spring.

Whitewash—Paste for Wall-paper.—M. S., Medo, Minn. The following is a good recipe: Take one half bushel of fresh-burned white lime; slake it with warm water, by pouring on gradually enough to keep the lime from burning, and keep the lime covered during the process. After it is thoroughly slaked strain the liquid through a fine sieve. Then add to it salt, one peck, previously dissolved in water; rice, three pounds, boiled to a thin paste and stirred in boiling hot; Spanish whiting, one half pound; clean glue, one pound, previously dissolved in warm water, and hot water, five gallons. Stir the mixture well, let it stand a few days and then apply it hot. For tinting use in the place of the Spanish whiting yellow ochre, ultramarine or Spanish brown. For wall-paper paste: First make a batter of one pint of wheat flour almost as thick as dough, then thin it out and gradually stir it into a gallon of hot water, to prevent the formation of lumps. Cook this, stirring continually, until the milky appearance changes to a cream color and the paste becomes thick and glutinous. Use the paste cold. If too thick, thin with cold water and stir well. To keep the paste sweet add a little carbolic acid.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Heaves.—C. G. M., Hay, Wash. Please see answers to similar questions, under the head of "heaves," which have been given in nearly every number of this paper.

Low Down.—E. S., Burntfork, Wyo. The symptoms you describe simply indicate that your cow is very low and going to die, or has died before this can reach you.

"Tiger Distemper?"—R. D., Moor, Mo. I don't know, and never heard of a disease called "tiger distemper," and consequently am unable to answer your question.

Anthrithis of New-born Animals.—L. J. S., Antloch, Neb. Your calf died of anthrithis of new-born animals, and could not have been saved by any treatment. If it affects animals over a week old, and otherwise stroug and vigorous, it usually will yield to treatment.

Has no Appetite for Milk.—C. V. G., Burchinal, Iowa. If your calf, two and one half months old, will not drink milk, but has otherwise good appetite, it will require an examination to decide whether the fault is with the calf or with the milk. Feed boiled or ground oats and green grass.

A Roarer.—S. S. S., Whitesburg, Pa. Your mule, it seems, is a roarer, and all the medicines you have given and you may give can do no good whatever, but may do a great deal of harm. The only remedy possible consists in a surgical operation, and this, too, even if ever so well performed, has not invariably the desired effect.

A Bad Habit.—C. H. K., E. Sangerville, Me. What you describe is evidently a bad habit. If your horse makes the queer movements with the head only when bridled or hitched up, it is possible that the bridle, including headstall, is at fault and incommodates the animal to such an extent that the same makes these movements simply in an endeavor to get rid of the incommodation. Investigate and find out where the fault is, and then remedy it.

Seat of Lameness in the Foot.—P. L. B., Cotton Plant, Mo. Your description plainly indicates that the seat of the lameness of your

mare is in the foot, but it contains nothing indicating the nature of the lameness; in other words, whether the lameness is caused by a bad corn, by navicular disease, a morbid contraction of the hoof, general soreness, or even ringbone. Therefore I have to advise you to have the animal examined by a competent veterinarian.

Swelled Poll and Swelled Withers.—G. H., Mondamin, Iowa. Such an enlarged poll and enlarged withers as you describe may remain in statu quo for a long time if not interfered with, while on the other hand, any interference, except by a competent veterinarian, will result in producing poll evil and a fistulous withers. Therefore, if a removal of the enlargements (cystic tumors) will considerably enhance the market value of the mare, employ a competent veterinarian to perform the necessary operations.

Tests for Tuberculosis.—C. C. A., Coal Hill, Pa. Although I will not deny that an intelligent person not a veterinarian can be sufficiently instructed to be able to apply the tuberculin test to cattle, there are, on the other hand, a great many who call themselves veterinarians to whom I would not intrust it. It is always best to have it applied only by a competent veterinarian. If tuberculosis exists in cattle in a very advanced stage, no tuberculin test will be required, and almost any one at all familiar with the disease can make the diagnosis without the tuberculin test.

Heaves.—J. F., Hadlyme, Conn. Please see answer given to S. B. L., Woodstock, N. Y., in FARM AND FIRESIDE of April 15th, and other answers on the same subject in nearly every number. The "hunch" in your horse's throat, of which you complain, is probably nothing but an enlarged thyroid gland—a case of goiter—and unless exceedingly large has very likely nothing to do with the difficulty of breathing, and even if it had, the operation required to remove such an enlarged thyroid gland is a dangerous one.

Hematuria.—W. L. G., Garfield, Virginia. Hematuria, or bloody urine, is a symptom of several infectious diseases; hence, as you only mention this one symptom, it is impossible to say with what disease your pig is affected. A few good washes with a five-per-cent solution of creolin and also a good many other things will kill hog-lice, and will free the animals of these parasites, provided the hogs are transferred to clean quarters, in which neither lice nor nits have been deposited, immediately after each wash. If this is neglected, you may use whatever you please, and you will never succeed in freeing your hogs from their parasites.

Chronic Discharge from Left Nostril.—L. T. N., Chandler, Mo. It is probable that the one-sided discharge of yellow matter from the nose of your mare since last fall has its source in a frontal, or more likely, maxillary sinus, especially if it is taken into consideration that the animal, as you say, has been slobbering from the mouth for two years. As an examination of the sinuses can be made only after trepanation, an operation can be properly performed only by a competent veterinarian; and furthermore, as such a one-sided nasal discharge, unless its source is known, always causes more or less suspicion of existing glanders, I have to advise you to have the mare examined by a competent veterinarian.

Shedding the Hoofs.—G. W. L., Mangum, Oklahoma. According to your description your cow is shedding her hoofs on her fore feet. She had probably been kept in the stable and was unaccustomed to any exercise before she was compelled to make the long journey over rough roads from Texas. All you can do is to keep the animal quiet in a stable with a clean floor, and to protect her sore feet as much as you can by suitable bandages and artificial shoes until new hoofs have been produced and the feet have regained their natural protection. It will be advisable to wash the feet with a mild antiseptic (a two or three per cent solution of creolin in water will answer) every time the bandage is renewed, which should be done as often as the bandage gets dirty, wet or deranged.

So-called Lampass.—C. E. F., Thrall, Kan. So-called lampass is only an imaginary disease. If the gums of a horse are congested and swelled (some, especially young horses, have naturally succulent gums, which, however, do not show anything morbid), the swelling, on close examination, will be found to be a product or symptom of some other ailment; for instance, diseased teeth, a catarrhal condition (inflammation) of other mucous membranes, particularly of the digestive apparatus, certain infectious diseases and other morbid conditions almost too numerous to mention. As to your mare, I advise you to first examine every tooth in her mouth, and unless she is suffering from a feverish disease, you probably will find the cause of her refusal to eat corn. If not, and you find that she is feverish and sick, have her examined by a veterinarian.

Knee-sprng.—W. H. B., Santa Barbara, Cal. If your horse is knee-sprung, that is, knees slightly bent forward, but at the same time is abnormally straight in the pastern-joints, the trouble is caused by an existing morbid contraction of the flexor tendons. The remedy to be applied consists in the performance of an operation—tenotomy—which, however, in order to be successful must be performed by a good surgeon, and only on one leg at a time. After the operation has been made it takes two months until a healing can be effected if the animal is well cared for, and then the operation may be performed on the second leg, on which it will also take two months for the severed tendon to unite and to become strong enough to support the weight of the animal. After this another two months will be required before the horse is fit to go to work again.

Kataleptic Attacks.—I. C. J., Bradford, N. Y. Your dog, according to your description, suffers from kataleptic attacks. The same, as a rule, do not become fatal unless an attack should be of an uncommonly long duration. These attacks, as you have correctly observed, are often brought on by extraordinary excitement, but a functional neurosis of the brain and spinal cord is considered by the best modern authorities as the most probable real cause. The disease, though oftener met with in dogs than in other animals, is comparatively a rare one, and so far no reliable treatment is known. Narcotics, particularly bromide of potassium and hypodermic injections of morphia, have been used and recommended. Froehner suggests cold water douches and electricity, but experience as to their curative effect is wanting. Extraordinary excitement and food difficult of digestion should be avoided.

Possibly a Case of Mange.—O. E. C., Fall Branch, Tenn. It is possible and even probable that you have to deal with a case of mange. Leave off giving internal medicines, for they cannot do a particle of good in a case like yours, in which you have to deal with a purely external disease, but may do considerable damage to your animal. Give your mare

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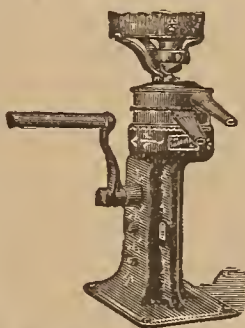
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dition. A sudden change from hard work to absolute rest will often be productive of very serious consequences, and is not advisable.

A Chronic Ailment.—Wm. H., Whorley, Tenn. You say in your communication about your horse, fifteen years old: "For six or seven years he has been drinking about half as much water as his mate. He is in rather poor condition, and always has been so. Has a good appetite, but his ribs will show in spite of me. He works all right and is as tough as a pine knot. His water is very thick and rather stringy, in color a light yellow and rather scant." From this description of yours plainly proceeds that the ailment of your horse is not very serious, for if it were the horse would not have the good appetite and be "as tough as a pine knot," that the amount of fluid taken and discharged (in the shape of urine) is not out of proportion, because if the urine discharged were much less in proportion to the water consumed, the horse long before this would have died of uremia. The absence of edematous swellings (if any were present they could hardly have escaped your observation in six or seven years) also shows that there can be no disparity between the amount of fluid received and discharged. Further, although it is very well possible that such an old horse is affected with a slight chronic catarrh of the urinary passages, your communication does not even compel an assumption of its existence, because if the horse drinks only half as much water as any other horse, it must be presumed that the quantity of urine discharged will also be only half as much as that of the other horse, but the other constituents of the urine will probably be of the same quantity; and if this is the case, a given quantity of urine will contain more of these other constituents than a like quantity of the urine of the other horse. This being the case, the urine necessarily must be much thicker, even to such an extent as to become somewhat stringy. Your horse, it seems to me, is simply not in the habit of drinking much water, which would be sufficient cause for not laying on any fat, and being as "tough as a pine knot." If you desire your horse to drink more water, you may give him every day a pinch of salt, and I have no doubt the kidneys will respond. But in all probability the horse is too old now for a radical change in the process of nutrition, and will not begin to lay on fat in his old age.

Many Questions.—J. L., Negannee, Mich. If your horse is what is erroneously called "knee-sprung," or in other words, has knees which bend forward, but has slanting pasterns and is sure-footed, there is nothing morbid; on the contrary, the condition is natural, and simply a consequence of too slim a diet when the animal was young and developing; consequently nothing can be done. As to the defects on the hind knee, I hardly understand what you mean; but as they do not seem to interfere in any way, I suppose they are insignificant. As to your suppositious case, it is best not to let the horse fall on the ice, but to have him shod with sharp shoes when work on the ice is required, and thus to avoid the danger of falling and slipping. If horses are obliged to do hard work, sloppy food should be avoided. Good, sound oats, some corn and the very best of hay should be fed in proportionate quantities. Horses accustomed to very hard work usually lose the tendency to lay on much fat, especially if somewhat advanced in age. If they have not, the above-named food in suitable quantities and a gradual decrease of exercise will not fail to improve the con-

Our Fireside.

TO SPAIN—A LAST WORD.

I.

Iberian, palter no more! By thine hands, thine alone,
they were slain!

Oh, 'twas a deed in the dark—

Yet mark!

We will show you a way—only one—by which ye may
blot out the stain!

II.

Build them a monument, whom to death—sleep, in
their sleep, ye betrayed!

Proud and stern let it be—

Cuba free!

So, only, the stain shall be razed—so, only, the great
debt be paid!

—EDITH M. THOMAS, in New York Sun.

A TRUE KNIGHT OF LABOR

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Author of "A Fair Maid of Marblehead," "The Wooing of Grandmother Grey," "Hidden for Years," "The Minister's Secret," "Hester Hepworth," "Sophia Blount, Splinter," "Six Little Rebels," "Dr. Dick," "Mopsy," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER IV.

JOE TAKES A JOURNEY.

It was a long ride from Bubble Iron Works to Prison Point, and Joe had ample time for reflection. He carefully reviewed his own acts concerning the child, and wondered if he had not done wrong in leaving her, even for the sake of the injured Pole. The woman in the station, he felt sure, was in some way connected with the abduction of Meg, and yet he could not quite see how.

"We cannot account for our impressions," said Joe. "I suppose they are a kind of safeguard nature throws around us, and at all events, the captain can only laugh at me for being suspicious if I am wrong."

Mixing with all sorts and conditions of men had made Joe unusually keen of vision, and he had seen at a glance that the woman was not only "made up," but very restless and nervous. She was constantly looking about as if expecting some one, and then she frowned like one vexed by delay. Joe left her in the station, still casting troubled glances from the windows. It was more agreeable to think of little Meg, and he began to recall all the acts and words of the day before, when the child had said in her innocent way, "I love you, Uncle Joe."

He had taken a short cut over to "Maloney Castle," with her little arms about his neck and her feet cuddled under his rough coat.

"Why do you love me?" asked Joe, as the child patted his cheek.

"Because you are so strong, and so kind, and no one can ever make me sick or hurt me when I have you."

"They would never dare try it," said Joe.

When he had slept the usual length of time, Meg had called him herself, and said in her own soft tones, "I have my lessons ready, Uncle Joe."

"All of them, Lady Meg?" asked Joe; and the child laughed at the title, and said:

"Yes, all of them; even the numbers, which I never like."

He remembered how quietly she went out when he told her to sit on the stairs while he bathed and dressed, and her pleasure when she was recalled.

"Oh, you are so nice when you are all white," she said. "I like you best in the afternoon, Uncle Joe."

Then he had laughed at her and called her "a dainty Cinder maid," who hated dirt, but would burrow like a rabbit down at the works rather than sleep in the best bed in "Maloney Castle."

"That is because you are there; and the dreams never come at the works."

"Let us forget them forever and forever, child. One of these days you shall be in a brighter and cleaner home, where those who love you can make you happy."

"Will you be there, Uncle Joe?"

"Not always; but I shall try to come sometimes, and my Cinder maid must not grow to be too fine a lady and forget me."

"No one can make me forget you," said Meg, eagerly. "My head gets tired sometimes, and I cannot make out what I am trying to remember; but some one, somewhere, I can't tell where, told me always to love you, and I shall."

"That is right, little one; and you cannot show it better than by sleeping here in a comfortable bed while I am at the works. It is cleaner and better for you."

"Oh, don't ask me to do that!" cried Meg. "Even out on the stairs I see strange faces and get frightened, and I cannot let you go without me."

Joe remembered how she clung to him as he took her in his arms. "Listen, Peggy darling," he said, "listen quietly. It is not a fit place for you, and I have promised to care for you as if you were my own child until some one who loves you much more can do so. Now, Peggy, I would never let my own child, if I had one, go into that place. I have humored you because

you were so frightened and unhappy, and you felt safer there with me; but you are safe here. Mrs. Maloney is rough, but kind, and you can sleep here in peace until I come."

"I can't! I can't! Oh, if you knew how it frightens me. If you could see those men and that woman. Yes, I know now it was a woman who struck me. Please, Uncle Joe, never leave me until we find the pretty home."

She had clung to him, trembling with fear, and he had soothed her by saying:

"Well, Peggy, dry your eyes and you shall go once more, just once more, remember, and then we must find a better place for you." It was not wise, and yet Joe had said that he would not let her out of his sight until her own could claim her.

Mrs. Maloney added to Joe's trouble a little later by saying: "I wish you would leave her to sleep here, sir. She's no more trouble than a mouse, and indeed, the men are making a bit of talk over it, and maybe it would be better to cross her than to bring sorrow to yourself, and a hard winter just upon us."

"I have nothing to fear for myself, my good woman."

"Couldn't you put her with your mother or your sister, sir?"

"I have neither. If I had I should never have seen the works. By and by, when Meg is stronger she will be like other children; she has had a great sorrow and has suffered much, and until she gets over her nervous fright the doctor tells me that she must be humored and indulged."

Joe had heard her lessons and taken her for

"Certainly, doctor. Walk up. I was altering a dress for the little lady, and got so interested in my work that I had quite forgotten the time."

"Is the child sleeping?"

"Soundly, doctor. I had some trouble with her crying for her uncle, but she was comforted at last, and went to sleep in my arms like a baby."

"If you are quite sure she will not waken I should like to see her," said the doctor, "but you know my reasons for not wishing her to see any one at present?"

"Oh, yes. I have had special patients before, sir."

"True, very true. Indeed, Mrs. Golden, you were highly recommended to me by one of my brother physicians."

"Which one, might I ask, doctor?" said Mrs. Golden, as she offered the doctor a chair and put aside his hat and coat.

"Aha, curious, I see; true to your sex. Well, Mrs. Golden, it does not matter in the least, for such a superior nurse as yourself can count her friends by the score."

Mrs. Golden bowed low.

"Well, now tell me about our charge," he said.

"She is a dear, loving little thing, but terribly nervous. What could have put the child in such a state?"

"Partly a terrible illness, I understand; and partly the loss of her mother."

"Poor dear, poor dear," exclaimed Mrs. Golden, "she never mentions her mother, but is constantly talking of her uncle; she seems very fond of him, doctor."



"HE LIFTED HER FOR ONE MOMENT IN HIS ARMS."

a walk, and then he had put aside the clothing which she liked so much, and dressed himself again in the old garments ready for his labor. The child had taken his hand and walked softly by his side, not speaking at all until they reached the door of the works; then, with a pitiful look which he could never forget, she had said:

"Oh, Uncle Joe, I am so sorry to trouble you, and I want to do as you say, but I can't be left alone, never, never again."

Joe lifted her for one moment in his arms and kissed the old, young face more than once.

"Don't fret, Peggy darling, it will all be right by and by, and Uncle Joe will never leave you."

And now she was gone. Where, he could not tell. Perhaps she was being tortured again; perhaps she was sick with fright, or even now calling for him. He clenched his hands as he thought of it, and said, mentally, "Woe be to any one who makes her suffer more."

"Prison Point," called the conductor, and Joe rose quickly and left the train.

CHAPTER V.

MRS. GOLDEN'S VISITOR.

"Who is it?" asked Mrs. Golden, cautiously, before she drew back the bolts of the door.

"Your patient's physician," was the reply. "I wish to see you, Mrs. Golden." The door was promptly opened.

"Good-evening, madam. I must beg your pardon for the lateness of the hour, but I wrote, you remember, that I could only come at night, owing to a pressure of duties."

The doctor's face clouded. "We must overcome that, madam; he has recently acquired some influence over her, but he is a bad, quarrelsome fellow, and is now in prison."

"She does not know this?"

"No, oh, no; he has been locked up for a week or two, and his arrest has something to do with a return of the child's malady."

"Indeed; poor child, I shall love her more than ever now."

"That is right, madam; pet her, comfort her, and indulge her in everything, but teach her to look with horror upon this wicked uncle."

"I certainly should advocate her having some children to play with," said Mrs. Golden. "She has had some of late, and such nervous children need companionship."

"You do not quite understand the case yet, if you will pardon me for saying so; some cases of mental and nervous disorders can only be cured by complete isolation and quiet."

"Yes," said Mrs. Golden, "I have seen such, and yet if you wanted to drive me into a madhouse you could do it quickly by shutting me up alone. I think repression and constant watching would upset a pretty strong brain, doctor."

The doctor was surprised, but did not show it. He had a more intelligent woman to deal with than he had supposed. He had quite forgotten that the so-called old-fashioned nurses must study and keep up with the improvements of the day or be utterly ignored.

"You are quite right," he said, with ready tact, "quite right; and now let me see my patient."

Mrs. Golden led the way into the next room, carefully screening the light from the child's eyes. The doctor gazed upon her silently. The child stirred a little in her sleep, and he withdrew. Neither the doctor nor the nurse spoke a word until they had left her.

"She is old for her years, is she not, doctor? That is, I should judge so. She is about eight, is she not?"

"Ten, madam, ten the twelfth day of next May," said he, promptly.

"Why, really, doctor, you are a wonder. Here have I nursed in the best families of our land, and not once have I found a man who could, off-hand, tell the ages of his own children; and you have your little patient's at your tongue's end."

"It is a peculiar case, madam," said the doctor, "and professional zeal sharpens our wits."

"Yes, yes; I remember good old Doctor Russ used to say that his patients were all his children, and he had a large family."

Again the doctor's face clouded, and Mrs. Golden, with a woman's tact, asked, "What should be the diet?"

"The best to be had, and a good variety, both for yourself and the child. There is no lack of means in this case, madam, and now that you have mentioned, I am reminded of my own condition. I am very hungry. It is a long way from the dismal station to this place, and it will be several hours before I can reach home. Might I crave some refreshment, if it be not too much trouble?"

"It is not the least trouble, doctor. I have my own coffee and tea at hand, and the cook deals generously with us, as she is sure to be asleep now. I will go down and procure something for you."

During Mrs. Golden's absence the doctor was not idle. As soon as he heard her footsteps die away he returned to the child's room again, shading the light as he had seen Mrs. Golden do.

He bent as low above her as he dared without awakening her, and examined every feature. As he stood there he muttered to himself, "It is too bad, too bad; but there is no short cut out of this business. I have given my word, and I will not go back. I have her safe now. How much does she remember of the past? How much does she really know? I wish that I could see her eyes once more. You are the cause of a deal of mischief, poor baby, but a few months will end it all, and then, for the Old World. Talks of her uncle, does she? Curse him. We must get him out of the way; when he is safe the way is clear."

His meditations ceased when Mrs. Golden entered the next room with a tray containing a generous lunch. The doctor enjoyed it with the relish of a hungry man. Mrs. Golden watched him closely as he ate. She spoke at last.

"I am thinking what we shall do about the fresh air for our patient."

"For the present she can only have it from these rooms. Under no circumstances can she see people."

"And studies, doctor? She tells me of her lessons with her uncle?"

"When the proper time comes a governess will be provided."

"About how long will you require my services, doctor?"

"For an indefinite time, Mrs. Golden, if your family can spare you. The salary, as I have said, will be ample."

"I have no family save a married son in Idaho."

"Indeed. Why that is quite delightful; it is just possible that the family might consent to your taking our patient there."

"How so, when she can see no one?"

"Not for the present, Mrs. Golden. Not now. But later on, when the crisis is past."

"May I ask what the nature of the crisis is?"

"That, madam, cannot be spoken of yet, even to such a wise woman as yourself."

The doctor lingered long enough to pay a few more pretty compliments to Mrs. Golden, and also to renew his charges about bolts, bars and the exclusion of every one, especially men. When she had shown him to the door and fastened it securely the good woman mounted the stairs, saying softly to herself:

"My dear old mother often remarked that a buttery mouth could keep a secret."

CHAPTER VI.

LITTLE MEG TALKS OF THE PAST.

A long, cold storm followed the doctor's visit, and Mrs. Golden found her little charge growing restless from the confinement indoors. Even the dolls and games failed to amuse her.

"She has been a mother's pet," said the nurse, as the child climbed into her lap one afternoon and asked her for the twentieth time why Uncle Joe did not come.

"Tell me all about him," said Mrs. Golden. "All that you can remember. Is he rich and handsome?"

"Oh, no, he's not rich, for he goes to the works every day, and he wears old clothes; but he is nicer than the prettiest picture on the walls down-stairs when he wears his best suit. His eyes shine so, and his cheeks are red like my dolls', and in this one, on this side, there is a deep, dim dimple. He says his mother had one, too."

"What are the works, child?"

"Oh, don't you know? It is where they make long steel rails for the cars, and there are big fires, and the men run around without their coats, and its very dark in some corners, and very bright when they open the big furnaces,

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She will mail the remedy in plain sealed package without charge and tell you where you can purchase the great specific which will most certainly cure you.

The demand on Mrs. Worley for the free packages has been enormous during the past month, and it is possible that hundreds of women who read this notice may avoid a hospital operation with all its attendant horror by taking advantage of this latest offer.

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"For six years I was a victim of dyspepsia in its worst form. I could eat nothing but milk toast, and at times my stomach would not retain and digest even that. Last March I began taking CASCARETS and since then I have steadily improved, until I am as well as I ever was in my life."

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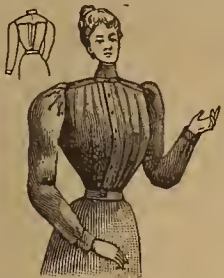
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and there is a day gang and a night gang, and Uncle Joe he had to go nights, and I went, too, because I was afraid to stay at Mrs. Maloney's."

"What could you do in such a place as that, child?"

"I watched them until I got sleepy, and then Uncle Joe made me a bed with his two coats, and I would sleep until they had supper, and then I had some and slept on, and on, until it was morning, and then we went up to Maloney Castle for breakfast."

"Maloney Castle? Why, I never heard of such a place."

"That's where the men boarded, some of them; and Uncle Joe had a little room there, with our books, and he was teaching me so much."

The child sighed, and Mrs. Golden hastened to ask another question.

"What was his other name, dear?"

"Such a pretty name; let me write it for you on my slate. I did that often and often. See, Rivington."

"Did you ever write any other names, child?"

"Yes, one Uncle Joe loved; it was his mother's and she has gone to heaven; it was Selina, and that is why I called the best doll you gave me Selina."

"It is a very old-fashioned name," said Mrs. Golden. "I once went to a little ladies' school with a curly headed girl named Selina."

"Mrs. Rivington had curly hair, too," said the child. "I saw her picture every day, for Uncle Joe keeps it in his watch, and he has another one there, too, and she was the lady who used to love me before she died."

"What was her name?"

"Just Margaret, like mine."

"Does Uncle Joe call you Margaret?"

"No, oh, no; he says 'Little Peggy,' and some one else, I can't tell who, called me 'Peggy darling' once."

"Who do you think it was, dear?"

"I don't know, nurse. Sometimes, when the dreams are not so bad I think it was a beautiful lady with pretty gowns going down on the floor, and she sings to me and holds me in her arms, and cries over me, and says, 'Oh, Peggy darling, I love you, I love you.' They told me that I must not talk about my bad dreams, but I should love to talk about her, for I see her so plain, and she is sad and makes her hands go this way."

The child wrung her hands like one in pain. Mrs. Golden pondered for a few moments upon these revelations, and then said:

"Dear little lady, I am glad that you can tell me about her and you may talk of the bad dreams as well, for I may help you to drive them away."

"Oh, nurse, may I? They said I must never speak of them, and so I think and think, and it frightens me so to be left alone. You won't leave me alone, will you, nurse?"

"No fear of that, honey, we are here in this house and here we must stay until you are stronger."

"Will Uncle Joe come to see us?"

"No one can come for a long time, dear."

"Why not?"

"Your people want you to be kept quiet and get well."

"I am well now, nurse; only I want to go out and play like the Maloney children, for the house tires me."

It tires me, too, thought Mrs. Golden.

"Nurse, won't you write to Uncle Joe and tell him that I am good and want him to come here soon?"

"I am afraid not."

"Can't you write? Mrs. Maloney couldn't; but Denny and Mary could."

"Yes, I can write, child; and every night when you go to sleep I put down all we have done and everything we have talked about; sometime when you are a fine young lady it may please you to read it."

"And Uncle Joe will read it, too, and he will know that I tried to be good when he gave me such a pretty house to live in, and such a kind, good woman to take care of me."

"Poor dear, who could ever be cross with you?"

"Some one was, in that place I keep dreaming about when my head aches; there was a woman who struck me, and pinched me, and then I was sick a long, long time, and there was men, too, who were rough and called me 'kid.'"

"Are you sure that some one struck you?"

"Yes, oh, yes; and I wanted to die. Don't you know the sore spots on my arms and on my back?"

"Yes, but those were made by the sickness, weren't they?"

"No, that is were the strap hurt me." The child shuddered.

"Let us talk about Uncle Joe now," said Mrs. Golden, "and the pretty lady, and when you are stronger you shall tell me of the bad things. Let me see; you wanted me to play mother, didn't you, like Mary Maloney? Well, now you shall be my own dear little girl, and I will be your mother."

"And you will put your head down on the pillows and play you had a headache," said Meg, eagerly, "and I will bring you some tea and we will be happy; but Mrs. Maloney whips her children, and you won't do that, will you?"

"No, dear, we will have only kindness here."

"Now you put your head down, and shut your eyes," said Meg, "and I will fix the curtains and make your tea, and you must call me 'Peggy dear,' and then when you wake up you will be all well and we will go out in a big

beautiful carriage and see all the people in a big park."

"How very delightful," said Mrs. Golden.

Meg covered her patient with a rug and patted her cheeks and kissed her, like one accustomed to such care. It rejoiced Mrs. Golden's heart to see her more like other children, and she entered into the play with real interest.

The tea, composed of sugar and water, having been obediently swallowed, Mrs. Golden was told to "go fast asleep now and wake up all well."

For sometime the good woman watched her little charge as she fluttered about washing her toy dishes and "clearing up," and while she was so doing she fell asleep, into the deep slumber of a middle-aged woman who had for more than a week denied herself her midday nap.

She was roused from her slumber by a scream of terror from Meg.

[To be Continued.]

LEMONS' CURATIVE PROPERTIES.

No woman should be without lemons on her toilet-table. They are about as necessary nowadays as soap, so those who believe in them say.

"Lemons!" exclaimed a woman who believes in them religiously. "Why, I wouldn't be without lemons a whole day for anything. I once heard of a French woman who was considered the most beautiful woman of her time, and she attributed her good looks to eating eight oranges a day for 365 days in the year. I'd be willing to gamble on it that lemons will do far more toward beautifying a woman than oranges. Lemons beautify one through and through, outside and in. Nothing in the world bleaches the skin, hands and face like a little diluted lemon-juice applied at night, and, strange to say, unlike most bleaches, it softens the complexion. Then the finest of manicure acids is made by dropping a teaspoonful of lemon-juice into a cupful of tepid water. This removes all stains from nails and skin, and loosens the cuticle naturally and much better than any sharp instrument. A dash of lemon-juice in plain water is an excellent tooth-wash, removing not only tartar, but sweetening the breath, and a teaspoonful of juice in a small cupful of black coffee will drive off a bilious headache before the sufferer can say caterpillar. Life would be very barren to me without lemons, and so it would to any woman who knows the secret of their efficacy. Best of all, the juice of lemon taken with a teaspoonful of soda, cooking-soda, after each meal, will decrease the flesh.—Chicago Tribune.

REVOLUTIONARY SON WANTS TO FIGHT WITH HIS FATHER'S WEAPONS.

One of the most interesting characters in the entire Southwest is Father O'Neil, who lives a few miles in the country from Republic. He has been a resident of Greene county for over fifty years. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and he has many of his father's keepsakes, consisting of a sword, an old-fashioned Revolutionary gun and one or two pistols with which his father fought for the liberty of this country. Father O'Neil is a hero of the war of '47, and he also took part in the late civil war. When he heard of the probable war between Spain and the United States, he expressed a strong desire to at once offer his services to the nation for the purpose of liberating Cuba. He is fast approaching the 100th milestone, yet he is a remarkable man in memory and strength. The wife of his youth remained with him until last August. Mr. O'Neil drives to town once a week, and he considers himself nearly 100 years young.—Kansas City Journal.

EMPRESS OF JAPAN.

The Empress of Japan is named Fusaka, and is a lady of very enlightened views. To her honor her husband has dedicated poems of his own composition. What seems a strange privilege to English wives is the one of sitting at the same table with himself, which the emperor has accorded to the empress.

ACROSS THE OCEAN FIVE HUNDRED TIMES.

The White Star Steamer Britannia recently made its five hundredth trip across the Atlantic. It is twenty-four years old, and its engines and boilers have never been renewed. It has traveled more than 1,500,000 miles.

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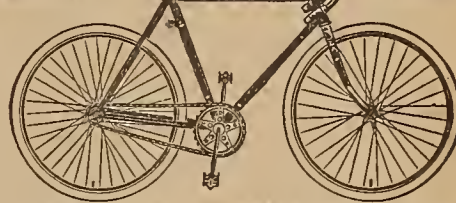
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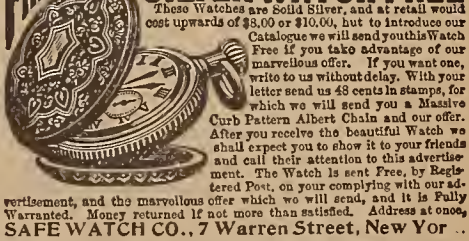
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THE DAILY LIFE OF A MAN-O-WAR SAILOR.

The first thing a man-o-war recruit learns is to jump to the scream of the bo'sun's mate's pipe and the bray of the marine "winjammer's" bugle. From the time "All hands" is sounded the men are allowed six minutes to scramble out of their hammocks, dress themselves, and lash their hammocks and stow them away in the hammock nettings. The man who lags and is ten seconds behind schedule time for this performance is spotted by the chief master-at-arms, and he does not go ashore on liberty with his shipmates for awhile. The hammocks stowed, the officer of the deck (in his bare feet, generally, like the men forward, and therefore not quite so gallant and dignified-looking as he appears when you go aboard on your visit) makes his nod to the watchful bo'sun's mate, and the word, "Wash down" is passed. Then the pumps below begin to thump, and for a solid hour "green seas" pour over the decks—more than enough water to float her. Every corner and cranny of the man-o-war is numbered for cleaning purposes, from the to'gallant fo'c'sle to the after engine-room, and every man-o-war's man has a number to correspond to his cleaning station. They don't holystone man-o-war decks any more. They use sand instead. This early morning washing down and polishing seance lasts for two hours, for it is to be understood that among the inconveniences the man-o-war's man must perforce get used to is that of working like a mule on an empty stomach. "Mess-gear," which means the whistled summons to the man-o-war's meal, goes for breakfast at half past seven o'clock. The galley cooks get the breakfast ready while the rest of the crew forward are cleaning stations. The food is substantial, nourishing, even palatable, but the recruit has to become accustomed to the way it is served. The chief petty officers' mess must be excepted from this generalization, for the chief petty officers' mess on an American man-o-war is always a daintily served affair, minus the swinging-tables. The petty officers who wear the brass buttons eat at stationary tables, usually on the berth deck. The average man-o-war's man regards his breakfast as only a foundation for a smoke—the best smoke of the day. On American men-o-war there is an open lantern, called the "smoking-lamp," hanging, as a rule, at the break of the fo'c'sle. The corporal of the marine guard lights and extinguishes this lamp, in accordance with directions from the officer of the deck. When the smoking-lamp is aglow the man-o-war's man may smoke himself black in the face—only on the main deck, however, and never, at his peril, between decks; when the smoking-lamp is not alight, the man-o-war's man who is caught smoking by the master-at-arms explains why he did then and there smoke later on to the commanding officer.

"Quarters," which is the first roll-call of the day on a war vessel, is sounded in the United States navy at half past eight o'clock (occasionally at nine o'clock) in the morning. The men forward, bluejackets and marines, don't put on their best uniforms for ordinary quarters, but they must look thoroughly neat and clean to stand their division officers' inspection, or travel up to "the stick" for slovenliness, which means an involuntary sloughing off of shore liberty and other privileges. Immediately upon the dismissal of men from quarters (which ceremony always takes place on the spar, or main, deck) the marine and ship's buglers in unison sound drill-call. There is a round of drills to fit all hands, in all the ship's departments, for every day in the week. Most of the men come in for single-stick drill—a rather antiquated drill, this, when it is considered how remote the probability is of modern men-o-war getting sufficiently close together for cutlasses to be of use. All hands also have to master the use of the rifle. The navy tactics differ widely from the army manual on the handling of the piece. When a man-o-war is tied up at a navy-yard all hands generally get a daily dose of battalion drill in infantry formation ashore in the yard on the marine's parade-ground. In foreign ports these battalions are called "landing-parties." The major portion of a ship's company makes up a landing-party, and the men and officers accompanying them go ashore in heavy marching order. They often cover twenty miles a day on the march, these landing-parties, in foreign ports. The other drills aboard ship are almost too numerous to be specified—drills on the great guns; cordage drill, which means the mastery of all knots used on shipboard; drills on scientific instruments; "arm and away," a hurry affair requiring extreme alertness in manning the boats; "repelling boarders," another antiquated but exceedingly athletic drill; "abandon ship," when all hands hastily provision the boats and sheer off in them, often in midocean, when the sea is glassy; "collision quarters," a lightning-quick closing of the doors of the water-tight compartments; "fire quarters," a hustling bit of hose-stretching work; target practice with rifles and revolvers, and drills aplenty besides, too technical to be referred to here.

The drills of the morning ordinarily last for an hour and a half, or until about ten o'clock, when the men are dismissed to indulge in another much-required smoke. After half an hour's smoking "Turn to" is again sounded by the bo'sun's mate, and the men put the finishing touches to their cleaning work of the morning, remaining at this until "Knock off" is

sounded at a quarter of twelve, when they wash up for dinner. Mess-gear for dinner is piped precisely at noon. About five minutes before this the men begin to form the beer-line. Men are not permitted to take the beer at the mess-tables (lest they secrete it and store up enough for a little spree aboard), and so many of them bring their dinners in their hands out to the beer line, and give the swinging-tables the go-by. At one o'clock "Turn to" goes again, and then for three or sometimes four hours the men forward put in the heavy work of the day. The chief bo'sun's mate, like a provost sergeant in the army, always knows where to find work for the bluejackets. There is always a paymaster's store-room to be "broken out" and restowed; always a magazine that needs overhauling (which the men forward despise, for the reason that no smoking is allowed aboard ship while a magazine is open); always ashes to be hauled up on elevators from the fire-rooms, anchors to be chipped and repainted, ammunition-boxes to be red-leaded, ship's sides to be scraped and scrubbed to a dazzling whiteness—in brief, the bo'sun's mate of a modern man-o-war could find some work to do on the highly polished surface of a small boy's toy agate. He is never at a loss, and one of the requirements of his rate is that he must always be able to find labor for four times the number of a ship's company.

When the men finally knock off at four or five o'clock the only remaining duty staring them in the face is the standing of evening quarters about sundown. They have to clean up spick-and-span for this, which is about the same sort of a roll-call, with the addition of ten minutes' preliminary calisthenics, as the roll-call in the morning. Then mess-gear for supper is piped, and when the meal is over all hands shift into the slouchiest clothes they possess in their ditty-bags—those of the crew, that is, who have not earlier in the day put down their names for visits, more or less tempestuous, ashore—and settle down for an evening of comfort and enjoyment aboard. The studious men lay aft to the library, but the library is never overcrowded with men forward seeking books. There is always too much going on on deck to make reading, letter-writing or other sedentary pursuits possible, except for the most serious men. The bluejackets and marines who possess musical instruments break them out of their ditty-bags, and all hands among the musicians play different tunes at one and the same time in close proximity to each other, the singers—also singing different ballads, as a rule—at no very great distance away. The boxers haste each other with the gloves on the main deck, the jig-dancers form their especial parties of admirers, the "man-o-war chaws," otherwise the yarn-spinners, gather their clienteles about them, and from immediately after supper until "hammocks" is sounded, at half past seven o'clock—when the sleepy men may turn in if they so elect—there is life and movement and whirl on deck. The men must remain a bit quieter after hammocks, and after "pipe down" is sounded by the buglers—"pipe down" being the taps of the army—all lights, except the staid ones, are extinguished, and the man-o-war day officially ends at half past nine o'clock.—Washington Star.

HARVEST FOR MAP-SELLERS UP STATE.

More interest has been taken in the geography of that part of the globe lying directly south and southeast of Florida within the past few weeks than ever before in the history of the country. Men who seldom look at a map have been studying all around through the Bahamas, the Canaries, the Florida Keys, the Leeward, the Carribeau and many others. Maps of Cuba and the surrounding islands have appeared like magic. One enterprising traveler sold a fair map on the street for fifteen cents, and he had scores of customers. They cost him about three cents each, and he made good wages. A crowd can be secured in front of any window if that window contains a map of Cuba or a map of Spain. Nothing will attract attention quicker (unless it be a picture of a battleship) and holds it longer. People study the country with as much apparent interest as though it was a new property which we were about to occupy.—Utica Observer.

SELLS READILY.

"I must say," is the testimony of Mr. C. A. Campbell, Iron River, Wisconsin, "that Peerless Atlas, with its colored maps and new features, is the most satisfactory premium I have ever handled. It sells very readily to all classes, and the low price of this combination—only one dollar, with a year's subscription for FARM AND FIRESIDE or WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION thrown in—makes it greatly desired wherever shown. It is easy to obtain subscriptions, notwithstanding the poverty, from want of work, that oppresses so many of our people."

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TRIALS OF THE HOLLAND SUBMARINE BOAT.

There is a general belief that an effective under-water warship would have the above-water ship at its mercy, and we think the belief is well founded. Of all naval devices that have been made the object of painstaking invention, there is probably none whose history at once dates back so far and includes so many repeated and heartbreaking failures. We say this with the knowledge that submarine boats have been built which have contained many of the elements indispensable to success. Unfortunately, in most cases there have been defects which ultimately relegated the device to the rubbish heap. The reason for this is not far to seek. Submarine navigation and warfare are in the nature of things so difficult, are beset with so many contingencies, that the ships in which they are carried on must be marvels of ingenuity and constructive skill and must meet a number of exacting requirements which never trouble the designer of a ship of the ordinary type. The Holland boat is the last of several that have been built by the inventor during the past twenty years. It embodies the results of a wide experience, and its trials indicate that the type contains all the elements of success. The larger boat, the Plunger, now completing at Washington, will have speed, great offensive power, and a wide radius of action. It will be capable of joining a fleet, cruising with it, and forming part of the line of battle.

It is scarcely necessary to point out the deadly execution which could be wrought by such a vessel, not merely at night, but in an open battle by day upon the high seas. If the ordinary torpedo-boat destroyer, which makes its dash upon the enemy in the open at the risk of being sunk by gun-fire, is so dreaded by the larger warships, what shall be said of a torpedo-boat which can sink beneath the waves and deliver half a dozen torpedoes from an unseen and unassailable position? If it is deadly by day and in the open, it will be doubly so by night. No search-light would be powerful enough to detect the insignificant conning-tower of an approaching submarine boat before it was well within striking range. No roadstead would be secure from its attack, and no fleet would dare to enter a harbor defended by these invisible, swiftly moving and destructive little craft; indeed, it is difficult to imagine just what would happen if a flotilla of these deadly little vessels were dispatched against a fleet of the enemy's ships.

A series of tests were carried out on March 27th for the benefit of Lieutenant Sargent of the naval auxiliary board. The work done was in thirty feet of water and gave full satisfaction both to Mr. Holland and the government expert. The first trials consisted of a series of surface runs at a speed of ten knots, in which the boat showed great maneuvering power, changing her course through ninety degrees with astonishing rapidity. The diving test was made at the same speed, and upon the diving-rudders being thrown in position the boat buried her nose and went down at an angle of fifteen degrees with the surface. At a depth of seven feet, as indicated by her flagpoles, she came to an even keel and ran forward steadily for several hundred yards. An ascent was then made, the boat coming up nose first at the same angle as she descended. The cover of the conning-tower was then thrown open and Mr. Holland announced that he would dive completely out of sight. This time she dived completely out of sight, the flagpole disappearing altogether. No trace of the vessel was visible until she made her appearance suddenly at a point several hundred yards distant from the point at which the descent was made. Later a test was made of the bow aerial torpedo-gun, and with a reduced air pressure of 600 pounds (as against the full pressure of 2,000 pounds) a dummy torpedo was thrown a distance of 500 yards.—Scientific American.

FORESTRY IN THE WEST.

Through the exertions of Mr. Abbott Kinney, the officers of the American forestry congress have accepted an invitation to hold a summer session in California, probably in the Yosemite valley. The application of the principles of forestry to the preservation of our forest-lands has had the West for its field. Immense reservations of the public domain have been made this side of the Missouri river, and frequently great popular discontent has arisen from denial of the right of free commons on the timberland of the government within such reservations. Perhaps there is hardly any other object of governmental concern of more importance than preservation of the forest-producing capacity of timber tracts. As presented to our people, however, in the reservations already made, it appears simply as a denial to them of the commercial use of the forests. Hence they have learned to decry the whole plan. Forestry, however, does not imply denial of the right to harvest timber, like any other crop, when it is ripe and ready. It means that all timber of commercial dimension and under shall not be wastefully sacrificed in the harvest.

The process of eliminating a forest may be slow, but its restoration is slower. When the groves are destroyed the soil is washed away because no longer retained in place by the web of roots and fibers, and the surface, once humid and shaded, is exposed to direct evaporation. The conditions of reforestation present problems that are very costly. European govern-

ments are now spending hundreds of millions in terracing mountain slopes to hold soil enough in which to plant seeds and nursery stock of trees, which often have to be irrigated or artificially shaded while they get a footing. Eastern forests are rapidly disappearing. The pine-lands of the northern peninsula of Michigan and of Wisconsin and parts of Minnesota were sandy soils, covered with a light loam produced by the decaying duff. When stripped of their large timber these lands were usually ravaged by fire, which destroyed the young growth and burned the light top stratum. They are now bare, sandy stretches. Dendrologists under state patronage are trying to set them in the Norway sand-grass that has been so effective in holding the dunes in the Golden Gate park, but scores of years must go by before they will support any considerable forest growth. The region which drew its lumber supply from these spent forests must very soon look to the Pacific coast for its supply of first-class lumber. If we learn in time how to harvest our timber and at the same time preserve our forests, we have in them a mine of permanent wealth beyond computation. The quality of rapid growth will make this coast the source of supply not only for our own country, but for the greater part of Europe.—San Francisco Call.

THE SPANISH INQUISITION.

There are two main lines upon which it has been the practice of anti-Catholic bigots of all kinds to lie about the Spanish inquisition. Firstly, the cruelties of the inquisition have been grossly exaggerated; and secondly, the Catholic church has been made to bear all the responsibility. These charges have over and over again been conclusively shown to be false. The inquisition, as it developed in Spain, was an institution of the civil government there, and the church was unable to restrain and was not responsible for its cruelties. A few facts will suffice to prove this. There were several instances of persons flying from the Spanish inquisition to Rome, and being protected by the pope, who refused to give them up. There were also instances of the pope's protesting against the excesses of the Spanish inquisition, and asking for a milder

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treatment. And there is one fact which alone ought to be conclusive. The inquisition existed in Italy as well as in Spain. In Italy it was under the direct control of the authorities of the Catholic church, and in Italy there were few, if any, of those cruelties which disgraced it in Spain.

We say disgraced it, because we have no disposition to defend the doings of the Spanish inquisition, even when these doings are stated truthfully and without exaggeration. But it must always be remembered that the spirit of that age was very different from that of our age in this regard. If Catholic Spain persecuted and burned heretics, Protestant England at the same time was burning "Papists." The (anti-Catholic) writer refers to "Bloody Mary;" but he omits, as all writers of his ilk do, to tell his readers anything of the doings of Mary's sister and successor. He omits to tell his readers that the persecutions of Protestants by Mary were no worse than the persecution of "Papists" by her father and sister in England; and that the persecution of Catholics by her sister in Ireland was far more savage than anything Mary ever did in that line. These gentlemen who are most vigorous in their denunciations of the horrors of the Spanish inquisition are just the very ones who never have a word to say about the horrors of the penal laws against Catholics in Ireland. The only regret is that these did not attain the object aimed at.—New World (R. C.), Chicago.

HOW STRAWBOARD IS MADE.

It will no doubt be of interest, especially to our young people, to know how the backs of their books, as well as the numerous paste-board boxes, so common in all our stores, are made. This pasteboard, or strawboard, as it is called at the factory, has an interesting history. Thousands of tons of ordinary wheat, oat or rye straw are hauled to the factory and elevated to a store-room. Beneath this is a series of large, hollow steel globes, which are heated and rotated by steam. The door or manhole to the large globe holding eight tons of straw is opened, and the straw is dropped in. When full the hole is closed, and lime-water containing about thirty bushels of lime

is turned in, and the globe is started to revolving. It has to be stopped at least a dozen times during the day and refilled. By night they intend to have them all filled, ready to revolve and boil all night. This process dissolves the hard silicon coating, and softens, bleaches and breaks up the straw. From these globes it is carried to the "beating and washing room," where the lime is all washed out and the straw is reduced to a fine pulp. This is accomplished by a machine, beating and washing it over and over again. When properly washed and beaten, it is all drawn off into a stock vat. Finally this pulp is pumped up into the Jordanian machine, which grinds it up very much like a big sausage-mill. This is flooded with water until the pulp and water look like a little muddy river. This stream is evenly distributed on an endless blanket six feet in width. As this blanket goes between numerous rollers the pulp is rolled into a thin sheet, and the water is drawn from it. The rollers are so arranged that two sheets are rolled together, making a heavy strawboard. Now the paper is ready to be thoroughly pressed and tempered by passing over and between forty great steam-heated rollers. This turns out the strawboard, ready to be made into boxes of all sizes and kinds. It is either rolled on great spools or cut and shipped in hundred-pound packages.

When extra heavy strawboard is needed for book-backs two or four spools of the ordinary paper is run over paste-covered rollers, and finally brought together between a series of mammoth steam-heated rollers, making a heavy, strong stiff board ready to be covered with cloth and placed on a book.—M. Z. K., in American Friend.

Jayne's Expectorant isn't recommended to cure everything; but it does cure Bronchitis, Whooping Cough and Croup.

In the FARM AND FIRESIDE word contest last fall, one of the winners was Mr. Albert Holzhauser, Cosgrove, Iowa. He says in a business letter received lately: "I duly received the book, 'American Women,' which was awarded to me in your word contest. I consider it a wonderful book and would not part with it for five dollars, if I could not get another like it."

Our Household.

THE CHOIR OF THE DAYBREAK.

I sat by the window at daybreak
As the wild birds caroled the hour,
And watched the shades of the night-time
Droop 'neath the morning's power;
And as the banners of sunrise
Flung their colors above the trees,
The burst of light charmed the bird-notes
Into sweeter melodies.

The wren, the linnet and robin,
The oriole, cat-bird and jay,
And all the choir of the tree-tops,
Spiritedly sang and gay,
And with notes unknown to mortals,
With harmonies as grandly fair
As the soul's unuttered music,
They piped on the morning air.

The daybreak's freshness and grandeur,
And the songs of the happy birds,
Commingle a tender beauty
That cannot be told in words;
And a gladness settled o'er me
That lifted me out of the cares
That yesterday bore upon me
In the burden of affairs.

Oh, the glory of the morning
And the wild bird's heaven-made song!
Oh, the good that is created
To take the place of wrong!
But the fondest hours of lifetime
And the gladdest moments e'en,
Do they teach us always, sweetheart,
The love of the Great Unseen?

—Homer P. Branch.

HOME TOPICS.

TO COOK AN OLD HEN.—There is no better fowl than an old hen, when fat and properly cooked. Last week I had two Minorca hens that wanted to sit. They were three or possibly four years old, and by their wanting to sit I knew their usefulness as egg-producers was nearly over, for the Minorcas never sit until old.

I had them dressed on Thursday: Friday morning I put them in the pot with about a quart of boiling water, let them come to a boil, and skimmed them, then set them back where they would simmer slowly, and let them cook until four o'clock, turning them over occasionally. Then I took them out into a jar, sprinkled salt and pepper over and inside of them, poured the broth into the jar, and set them away. Saturday, about two hours before dinner-time, I put them into my covered roasting-pan, heated the broth and poured it over them, put on the cover, and set them in the oven. At dinner-time they were browned beautifully, and were tender and juicy as one could ask. We ate one for dinner, and the other was delicious sliced cold for Sunday dinner. They were very fat, but when they were dressed I took out all the extra fat before putting them to cook.

OMELET.—An omelet made as follows and

for a minute, then fold together and serve at once.

ARBOR DAY AND BIRD DAY.—Among the bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture are two which have lately come to my hand that should be in at least every country or village home in the land. These are: Arbor Day, Its History and Observance; and Farmers' Bulletin No. 54, Some Common Birds in their Relation to Agriculture. Either of these bulletins can be procured free by writing to your member of Congress or to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The first, besides a history of Arbor day, contains some selections for readings and recitations on this day, and suitable topics for essays.

The Bird bulletin contains abstracts of the results of investigation into the habits as regards food of about thirty birds belonging to ten different families. These tend to prove that some birds which farmers and others have regarded as depredators or at least with suspicion, are in truth friendly allies of the farmer and fruit-grower.

Arbor day, which was first suggested in the "Country Gentleman" April 17, 1856, by its editor, Luther Tucker, is now of almost national observance, and is educational in its best and broadest sense. The children and young people being given a prominent place in Arbor day exercises, their minds are led to the study of trees, and from that the innate love of nature in every child is developed, their observing faculties strengthened and the result is a closer study of and fellowship with all plant life that will be a refining and ennobling influence in their lives.

An effort is now being made to establish a Bird day. If this is not thought best, I do not see why the two cannot be combined. Where trees are planted the birds will come and make their home. The protection of the birds and study of their life and habits should go hand in hand with the planting of trees, tending flower-beds and training vines.

The wise parent and teacher will not neglect so potent an aid in exalting the thoughts and purifying the tastes of the children.

"Nature never did betray
The heart that loved her; 'tis her privilege
Through all the years of this our life to lead
From joy to joy; for she can so inform
The mind that is within us, so impress
With quietness and beauty, and so feed
With lofty thoughts, that neither evil tongues,
Rash judgments nor the sneers of selfish men
Shall e'er prevail against us or disturb
Our cheerful faith that all which we behold
Is full of blessings."

MAIDA McL.

THE SHIRT-WAIST IN ALL ITS GLORY.

Gay indeed will be the shirt-waist this coming season, not so much of itself, but

Fig. 1 is made of double-faced satin ribbon, heavy and rich in texture, but soft and delicate in color—a "heavenly" blue—trimmed with a like shade of Liberty silk knife-plaiting. One and one half yards of ribbon four inches wide are required, and three eighths of a yard of the plaiting, also about four inches wide.

I may as well say now that while the various scarfs here illustrated can be passed around the neck twice, tied in the respective bows or knots and then untied, each

in order to make the puff permanent, and these few stitches aid in making the puff less masculine, if that should be an objection. The ends of the ribbon are frayed out about three fourths of an inch, giving a pretty finish. The neck of the scarf, as with Fig. 1, is cut directly at the back, the edges turned under and hemmed.

Thus the crush collar can be worn separately; the crush collar and the Ascot can be worn together; a linen collar and the Ascot can be worn, as well as a linen collar, the crush collar and the Ascot, as in illustration.

Fig. 3 is made of white, and requires one yard of heavy, double-faced, white satin ribbon four inches wide, one fourth of a yard of narrow (one inch wide) Liberty silk knife-plaiting, and one fourth of a yard of the regular waist, knife or accordion plaiting which comes about one half yard wide. A stock collar is made of white satin, similar to the stock collar for Fig. 1; the narrow plaiting is placed around the front of the neck. The wide plaiting is tied in an ordinary knot, and the

remainder of the ribbon simply passed through the center of the knot, making a soft knot of white satin in the midst of the plaiting. Two tiny ends of ribbon, one and one half inches each, are cut from the back ends of the ribbon, frayed slightly and sewed neatly underneath the satin knot, as in the illustration. The ends of the satin ribbon are hemmed and fastened at the back. With this scarf, also, the stock collar can be worn separately, and the scarf part worn with a white linen collar, though the effect is richer when the entire white satin collar and scarf are worn.

Fig. 4 is delicate pink in color, and is made of dainty corded silk ribbon four inches wide, and one half yard of cream lace one eighth of a yard wide. As with Fig. 2, a soft crush collar (no stock) is made for the neck. The remainder of the ribbon (one and one half yards being required for the entire scarf) is then passed around (leaving fullness in the back for cutting and hemming) and tied in the soft, rather tight sailor's-knot. The ends are cut on the slant or bias, and the lace halved and fulled on each end. The neck part of the scarf is then cut directly at the back, the edges turned in and the scarf adjustable to the crush collar alone, or to the linen collar alone, or to the linen and crush together, making various combinations.

Fig. 5 is simply a knot made of silk mull and white silk lace two and one half inches wide. One fourth of a yard of mull is required, and two yards of the lace. Cut two strips, about seven inches wide each, from the short way of the mull; also a strip three and one half inches wide from the short way of the mull. Join the two large pieces at the narrow ends. First baste and then hem by machine all sides of this long strip; also the four sides of the short strip. Divide your lace into four parts. Two of the pieces are to be fulled onto the two short ends of the long strip, and the two remaining on the two long ends of the short strip. Roughly plait the small strip together so that the lace ends will be crosswise; then loosely tie the long strip in a soft ordinary knot over the rough plaiting of the short strip. Catch here and there with a few stitches, and a very simple but very lovely effect is gained.

A plain stock collar may be worn with this knot of lace and mull, if desired, though it is not at all necessary. Cover a strip of collar canvas very smoothly and tightly with a piece of soft white silk satin (any old thing which you may have in the house will do); then re-cover with a piece of the silk mull left from the knot. This produces a very charming effect, as the glint of the silk or satin passes



FIG. 6.

FIG. 5.

time the owner wishes to wear them it is not advisable to do so, as the ribbons, etc., will crumple and very soon lose their freshness and newness. While a little more trouble, perhaps, still it is much more sensible to make a separate stock collar for each of the various ties, even though this will necessitate the cutting of the ribbon.

Stock-collar canvas can be bought by the yard (ten or fifteen cents a yard). It is stiff and non-crushable, and being rounded to fit the neck, needs no further shaping.

To go back to the blue scarf. Collar canvas, the right neck measure, is covered on the outside with a strip of the ribbon in which a plait or two have been taken because of the surplus width. The back of the canvas may be faced with some soft silk or not, as desired.

The remainder of the ribbon is placed around the stock collar, fastened at the back for the time being with a pin (an inch or two being allowed in fullness at the middle of the back), then brought around to the front and tied in a four-in-hand bow. The two ends, one of which should be slightly longer than the other, are turned under neatly and edged with a knife-plaiting. The neck part of the four-in-hand scarf is cut in two directly at the middle of the back, the edges turned under neatly, thus making the scarf adjustable to the stock collar by the aid of pins or hooks and eyes, and also to the stiff white linen collar which may be worn, making practically two scarfs. The small piece of plaiting left is sewed at the back of the collar, as seen in illustration.

If I am not perfectly clear in my description I shall be glad to hear personally from any of the readers of this paper.

Fig. 2 illustrates the Ascot puff, which is perhaps a trifle masculine in style, but which can be softened to suit the feminine taste by the right choice of ribbon. The ribbon used in this instance (one and three fourth yards, four inches wide) is one of the latest kinds out this season, a yellow and white check, soft and yielding enough to relieve any stiffness of the puff.

As this scarf is more likely, because of style, to be worn with a stiff linen collar, no stiff stock collar has been used. Instead, a soft crush collar, unlined, has been made of the required neck length of ribbon. This is pinned around the linen collar at the back. The remainder of the ribbon is adjusted around it, as described for Fig. 1 (allowing some fullness directly at the middle of the back for the cutting and hemming), and is then brought to the front and tied the ascot puff. It is necessary to put a stitch here and a stitch there,



FIG. 2.

FIG. 3.

FIG. 1.

FIG. 4.

served on a bed of lettuce-leaves is a dainty dish to tempt the fickle spring appetite. Beat the yolks and whites of four eggs separately, the whites very stiff. Put a spoonful of butter in the omelet-pan, and when it is hot, but take care it does not scorch, stir two large spoonfuls of the beaten whites very lightly into the yolks and pour into the pan; watch carefully, and as soon as it begins to set spread the remainder of the whites over the top, set it in the oven

because of the beauty of the neck accessories which are in vogue and which are legion.

Some of the prettiest of the many seen in the shop windows of New York City are here illustrated, and it is a pity that the genius who is to discover the process of photographing color has not yet made his appearance. Under the existing circumstances, however, a verbal description of the color combinations may not come amiss.

through and emphasizes the beauty of the silk mull.

Fig. 6 illustrates a very pretty scarf of cotton Brussels net and lace. One fourth of a yard of net is required; also one yard of pure white cotton lace, with top net as nearly like the Brussels net as possible; and one half yard of white insertion about an inch wide. A crush collar of the net is first made (no stock) and passed around a linen collar. Then the yard of lace is halved and fulled onto the two ends of the long strip of net, and the insertion is halved and placed as a heading. The side edges of the scarf are basted and hemmed by machine. Then the scarf is fastened at the back of the linen collar (allowing fullness for cutting and hemming), brought around to the front and tied in a loose ordinary double knot (as you would tie cord). A sort of loop-knot is also tied about midway in the two ends of the scarf. This is a new effect so very popular when worn with the shirt-waist.

Fig. 7 illustrates a very dainty and perhaps the latest style scarf out. It requires one half yard of mousseline de soie and one and one eighth yards of black Chantilly lace three or four inches wide. Great care must be exercised in the selection of the pattern of the lace, for, as you will notice from illustration, the lower design edge of the lace is cut out, turned upside down and hemmed by machine to the lower edge of the ruffle of mousseline de soie, and also in similar manner as a heading to the ruffle. The top beading of the lace is cut off and stitched to the sides of the ruffle. And the flower design in the center of the lace, in this case a rose, is cut out and appliqued or otherwise carefully sewed on the lower ends of the scarf just above the ruffle, two roses on each end. Thus you will see that the lace must be very marked in design; the beading must be neat and small, the flower design decided and entirely separate from the lower fancy edge, and this fancy edge deep enough on the inside to make a pretty outside edge when turned upside down. I doubt not that nearly every household, however, will possess some old lace which will just answer the requirements for the scarf mentioned.

A soft, plaited crush collar is first made of the mousseline de soie. Then, as before described, the strip of goods is temporarily fastened at the neck (allowing fullness for cutting and hemming) and brought around to the front and tied in the ordinary bow-knot, which is almost, though not quite, as broad as it is long. This can be worn with a linen collar, but the effect is much better when worn with the plain stock collar.

While these scarfs are very expensive when purchased ready-made in the various stores, they can be made for about one third or one fourth of such cost; if one is not so particular about the latest kinds of ribbons which bring double the price, the scarfs can be made even less than one fourth.

These scarfs are all simple, yet lovely, and if one were limited to one black silk or

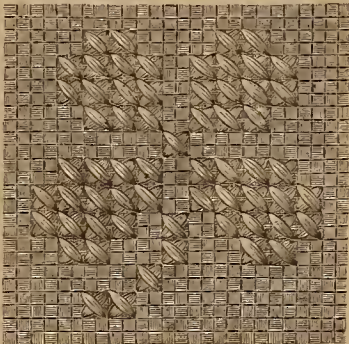
POVERTY'S PLEASURES.

It is not of the abject poverty of hunger and cold that has nothing, of course, to recommend it that we would speak. But the poverty of small economies, limited means and meager beginnings is not to be despised, at all events.

That it is no disgrace, though very inconvenient, to be poor is a saying of frequent repetition, and one very full of truth and suggestion. And it is poverty of this nature that we refer to in the sentence in which the word "pleasure" plays also a part.

That in the early-day poverty of wedded lives there was a genuine pleasure and a keen relish housewives all over our land will attest. And they trace out for the benefit and encouragement, many times, of interested listeners with a pride and satisfaction the little economies that were practised and the self-denials and hardships cheerfully borne, one for the other, because of that love that counts a trial a joy.

The beginning at the very foot of the ladder in the establishing of homes by the newly wedded is not perhaps of so frequent occurrence at present as formerly, when the world at large stood upon so seemingly a different a plane. Yet this manner of beginning is not so entirely out of date even yet as



never to be met with, nor will the time ever come that it will be. If deserving, energetic people, all the world who knows them loves this lover-pair, whose firmest foothold upon future prosperity is their love for each other and their determination to do and dare for one another. And they are watched with great interest by their friends and duly admired for their manifestations of a brave spirit and great ambitions.

Succeed, they are congratulated and referred to. Failing of the self-appointed goal they have even yet a pleasant life to look back upon. For in love they have labored together toward the same end, and the failure has been but partial at the worst.

Ah, love! Thou art a holy thing—
Descended straight from heaven;
God knew no dearer gift than thine
To mankind could be given.

For it is the lodestar, the guide, the inspiration, the everything and all that makes the wheels of domesticity and hominess run smoothly along, and it attunes the heart to notes of joy, notwithstanding that, as poverty, somewhat of the world would look upon their surroundings.

Where husband and wife are true-hearted and in love with each other through all the years of their lives together, and in love with their home and their work of home-building, self-denial is not looked upon in the light of sacrifice, and hardships of whatsoever kind are cheerfully encountered. For to be appreciated and to have

or acquaintance of more limited means than one's self.

Planning to make one dollar do the work of two and contriving to "make somethin' out'en nothin'" is a work that falls largely to the housewife of poverty-limited finance. And in many instances she becomes adept in the art, and her thrift comes to bear the appearance of plenty and to spare. Here every wit is sharpened through a practical insight and study of such questions and needs, and all her talents and inventive genius polished by the constant friction of being employed in the formulation of ways and means. And all her household bears the look of prosperity, while yet another, with more with which to do, but possessing less of tact and ingenuity and less of interest in the task in hand, finds it a sorry undertaking to live presentably.

But full of life and love and hope, how one enters into the zest of conflicts with privations and the need of close calculations, and the task thus lightened by love and good cheer is not the burden it might appear to one less interested in it all. Instead, the right-spirited wife and mother finds a happiness in her homely duties unthought of by people of wealth.

In the more prosperous days that are apt to follow upon the footsteps and undertakings of such people both husband and wife are wont to look back upon their early struggles with adversities, with feelings of pleasure and pride, and refer to them as the happiest days of their lives; and it is with a feeling akin to affection that the humble, rude, first home is viewed in retrospection. The hardships and discomforts borne through necessity and for each other disappear as the mists and myths of the morning, and only the pleasant "surprises" perpetrated and their days of glowing successes are remembered.

Hundreds of happy little plans and happenings belong to the poverty days of "ye olden times" in the lives of the greater number of to-days' people who are now in moderate or well-to-do circumstances. And it is a pardonable pride that brings from their lips a frequent reference to those days when "we can't afford" was one of the most common every-day phrases to be heard in their daily conversation.

In such poverty days luxuries were seldom indulged in, either for the table, the home adornment or in wardrobe lines. But "there is joy in every sound when there's love at home." There were books and papers to turn to for both profit and pleasure. There were duties to perform that in their homeliness and simplicity were yet not to be neglected or scorned, but to be enjoyed and faithfully done. And one never forgets the cozy dinners and teas given in entertainment of one's neighbors and friends and taken under the hospitable roofs of those kindly people whom perhaps have passed away or perchance have "moved" away. Unpretentious dinners and teas they might have been. But the hours of social converse and pleasantries were filled with happy exchange of thought and opining, helps over hard places, each for the other, and a strengthening of character and purpose because of the interchange and the contact of soul and soul, and the real heart to heart talks so sacred to mothers and wives.

Then despise not the day of small things, small beginnings and limited means, and learn to say gracefully, "O poverty, where is thy sting!" For victory crowns in some desirable form all worthy undertakings.

ELLA HOUGHTON.

SLUMBER PILLOW.

This is made of gray or ecru Java wool canvas, embroidered in the clover-leaf pattern in silk or wool. Ribbons in bows and points finish the ends. It can be used upon a couch or hung on a large chair. B.

DARK CIRCLES AROUND THE EYES.

I send FREE a simple cure for this trouble so annoying to women. Whether from ill-health, over-work or any weakness, it can be cured. Address Mrs. L. B. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.



satin shirt-waist for the coming season, this limit would not be noticed with a variety of dainty and beautiful scarfs to change the entire effect.

EMMA LOUISE HAUCK ROWE.

CARPETS BY MAIL.

No matter where you live, you can buy furniture, carpets, etc., by mail, from the cheapest house on earth. Julius Hines & Son, Baltimore, Maryland, issue a carpet catalogue in colors, from which you can select any desired pattern as well as if you had the carpet before you. They also publish a furniture catalogue which contains everything that can be used in a house. Both these catalogues are free and will be mailed on request.

one's sacrifices recognized and valued is more than half the battle of the struggle for "the better times coming," no matter that it is "so long, long, LONG on the way" (as it not infrequently happens to be). To do without "for your sake" lessens the sting of disappointment, and to labor hard "to help you, love," makes the most rugged, up-hill path conservatively easy to pursue.

In economy itself there is pleasure. And there is everything to recommend it. Wastefulness is intolerant, and not even the wealthy are entitled to any such right. There can be no right in allowing to go to waste that which would help to relieve the actual poverty of some one, or that would be found exceedingly helpful to some friend

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THE MODERN
STOVE POLISH

No other polish has so large a sale. None so good.
J.L.Prescott & Co. New York

LINENE Collars and Cuffs.

Stylish, convenient, economical, made of fine cloth and finished alike on both sides. Reversible and give double service.

No Laundry Work

When soiled on both sides, discard. Ten Collars or five pairs of cuffs, 25c. Send 6c. in stamps for sample collar and pair of cuffs. Name size and style.

REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., DEPT. C, BOSTON.

SOLD!
UNDER A
Positive
Guarantee

to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the wrists and collar of the dirtiest shirt, and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washer, which will be sent on trial at wholesale price. If not satisfactory, money will be refunded. Agents wanted. For exclusive territory, terms & prices, write Portland Mfg. Co., Box 4, Portland, Mich.

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Sent Free and guaranteed, our jet black mixed Worsted Cheviot, Men's round cornered **SACK SUIT** made just like cut, suitable for any climate, tailored and trimmed first class. Our Leader —big bargain—don't miss it. Sent C. O. D. by express, free to examine. If found satisfactory, pay express agent our price, and express charges, and suit is yours. If not satisfactory, notify us and we will order it returned at our expense. For Coat, send breast measure. For Pants, waist and inside seam of leg. Sizes over 42 breast, or 40 waist, cost \$2.50 extra. Address all orders to

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RUBBER GOODS

For Men, Women and Children. Address, **The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co.,** 147 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free.

Our Household.

THE PROGRESSIVE RAG PARTY.

In October each year Mrs. Barton willingly closed her house in the country, twelve miles from the city, and went for the winter with one of her married daughters. She could not live alone through the long winter, not even pleasantly with help, so far as the actual work was concerned. But as regularly each year she opened the house in the spring, had a nice garden made, and invited her daughter or daughters home with their children.

During the winter in the city she heard much of progressive parties; sometimes cards, sometimes dinners, but "progressive," with a prize at the end.

One day she said to quite a party of her daughters' friends, "In the spring after my house is cleaned I will invite a company of you out into the country and have a progressive rag-sewing party. I want the rags sewed for one of the new weaves of rugs. The honeycomb pattern it is called, and it does look like the honeycomb weave of bedspreads."

How blessed it is when the old homestead can be kept, and when the summer outing means going to the childhood home.

Mrs. Barton did as she promised, and a merry company of young married ladies boarded the train for the twelve-mile ride and for the pleasure in store for them. Many of them had never seen a basket of cut carpet-rags, much less ever sewed any rags. When they arrived Mrs. Barton had a cup of coffee and some nice country bread and butter for a lunch. Then they began the rag-sewing and sewed with as much zeal as they would play a game at home. There were prizes for the best or largest amount sewed. A silver thimble was the first prize.

Mrs. Barton served an old-time country dinner, with delicious broiled ham and mashed potatoes, pickles and preserves, with coffee and real cream. She had hot sally-linn, which the guests had never tasted. She told them it was a cake which her great-grandmother used to make in Massachusetts in "ye olden time;" the only difference in it was that the old recipe called for soda and cream of tartar, while baking-powder is used in everything now. It was a hot cake to be buttered and eaten like biscuit or shortcake.

After dinner Mrs. Barton had ordered the great carry-all sent round. It was what they used in the town for picnics and carrying a crowd any time. "Now," said Mrs. Barton, "you just please imagine that this is a 'tally-ho,' and enjoy your ride as much as possible."

They drove out far enough to gather a profusion of wild flowers, and brought home with them immense bouquets of trilliums and lilacs and many fruit-tree blossoms.

The party decided it was as pleasant an outing as they could possibly have, and it proved that people in the country who often enjoy city hospitality can return the invitations in ways not to tax themselves specially, even when their houses and furniture are not modern and they cannot command caterers without too great expense. These simple entertainments are most agreeable to those who spend so much of their lives among the conventionalities of city life.

MARY JOSLYN SMITH.

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.

The second congress of mothers will meet in Washington, D. C., May 2 to 7, 1898, inclusive. Arrangements have been made with all railroads to carry passengers attending it for one and one third fare for round trip. If you can have but one outing this summer you will feel repaid for the feast in store for you in being able to hear the addresses which will be delivered. The first meeting was an overwhelming success; the second will no doubt be more outreaching, as every one who was there last year will want to go again and take some one with them. Full information can be obtained of Mrs. H. W. Fuller, Chairman Transportation Committee, Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

L. L. C.

RAINY-DAY DRESS.

When I first saw the much-talked-about rainy-day dress, I said, "Oh, I'll never wear that!" But you know "wise people change their minds; fools never do," and to-day I would not give up the comfort and cleanliness of my abbreviated gown.

Dragging skirts may do in the house, where it is clean, but dragging skirts along a dirty avenue, catching all the filth along the way, are an abomination. Think of taking all that into one's clean home! Of hanging such a gown up in one's wardrobe to breed all sorts of noxious vermin!

Those who are obliged to be out in all weathers should be provided with suitable gowns as well as umbrellas.

There are, of course, a variety of materials, but to one who has known the durability of a real good piece of cassimere or clay worsted, purchased of a tailor, no other goods would appeal to them.

Very few, if any, of the materials sold as women's wear will stand weather, and only the best, the very best, of material will come out of the first rain-storm unharmed. So do not deceive yourself into thinking that a cheap material will do for a rainy-day costume. It should be tailor-made, a good, felt walking-hat to go with it, and leggings of the material or of waterproof goods to be worn over the shoes. Some prefer a close turban, as often wind accompanies the rain, and it is less liable to be blown about. A pair of chambray gloves and a good umbrella and rubbers complete the outfit.

BELLE KING.

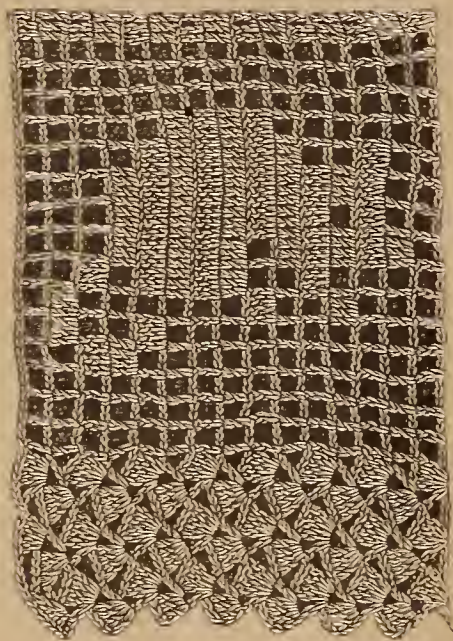
MOUSE LACE.

ABBREVIATIONS:—St, stitch; d c, double crochet; ch, chain; sq, square; sh, shells.

Ch 56 st; turn.

First row—Miss 3 st, d c in next 2 st, ch 2, miss 2, 1 d c in next, ch 2, miss 2, 1 d c in next (these will be called squares), continue till you have made 15 sq; in last d c put 4 d c, ch 2, 1 d c in same st, miss 2 st, 4 d c in next st, ch 2, 1 d c in same st, miss 2 st, 4 d c in next st, ch 2, 1 d c in same st, ch 3; turn.

Second row—*Make 4 d c over ch 2, ch 2, 1 d c in same place* (repeat between stars twice); make 7 sq, 4 d c in next 4 st, 7 sq, 3 d c in next 3 st, ch 3; turn.



Third row—Miss 1 st, 2 d c over d c, 4 sq, 13 d c in next 13 st, 7 sq, *4 d c over ch 2, ch 2, 1 d c in same place*, repeat twice, ch 3; turn.

Fourth row—*4 d c over ch 2, ch 2, 1 d c in same place*, repeat twice (these will be called shells after this), make 5 sq, 4 d c in next 4 st, 1 sq, 4 d c, 1 sq, 4 d c, 5 sq, 3 d c, ch 3; turn.

Fifth row—2 d c, 5 sq, 13 d c, 6 sq, 3 sh, ch 3; turn.

Sixth row—3 sh, 7 sq, 13 d c, 4 sq, 3 d c, ch 3; turn.

Seventh row—2 d c, 3 sq, 13 d c, 2 sq, 4 d c, 5 sq, 3 sh, ch 3; turn.

Eighth row—3 sh, 6 sq, 19 d c, 3 sq, 3 d c, ch 3; turn.

Ninth row—2 d c, 3 sq, 19 d c, 6 sq, 3 sh, ch 3; turn.

Tenth row—Same as eighth row.

Eleventh row—2 d c, 4 sq, 16 d c, 1 sq, 4 d c, 4 sq, 3 sh, ch 3; turn.

Twelfth row—3 sh, 3 sq, 4 d c, 3 sq, 10 d c, 5 sq, 3 d c, ch 3; turn.

Thirteenth row—2 d c, 8 sq, 4 d c, 2 sq, 4 d c, 3 sq, 3 sh, ch 3; turn.

Fourteenth row—3 sh, 4 sq, 7 d c, 9 sq, 3 d c, ch 3; turn.

Begin at first row.

MARY F. LAWRENCE.

WASHING CHILDREN'S FACES.

"Go away, Nellie, you sha'n't wash my face, you hurt me so," screamed a little fellow who was called in to make himself presentable for company.

I felt so sorry for him, for I could see Nellie snatch him up, wet a corner of the towel, rub on the soap and rapidly work all over his sweet little face until the soap was in his eyes and the skin on his face was sore.

Try it on yourself once, and you will know just how it feels.



Ivory Soap, because of its purity, its quick profuse lather, its easy rinsing quality and the smooth pleasant sensation it leaves, is the favorite soap for the bath.

Copyright, 1896, by The Procter & Gamble Co., Cincinnati.

And then the soap! Most people think any kind of soap will do for children to wash with, and I have seen their faces and hands fretted and sore from some coarse, rough kitchen-soap that was not fit to wash dishes with, much less to put one's hands into. Even all good soaps do not agree with every skin. One that has a suspicion of glycerin in it will fret my skin for days at a time, so when I find a soap that agrees with my skin I hold on to it and never am persuaded to change.

Then, too, the wash-rag used is the cause of much discomfort. I never found any

so soft and pleasant as a piece of old, soft, white flannel; next to that is old linen. We save the old table-linen for this purpose, and the old gauze shirts and whatever is used should be washed out and rinsed carefully, hung up straight to dry, so that it will not sour. Each one, too, should have their own. Skin-diseases are frequently communicated from one child to another in this way.

Try a more gentle way of performing these ablutions and see if the little folks will not soon deem it a luxury to be clean.

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PIANOS, \$155 UP.
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We furnish with each Piano a \$10 hard wood Piano Chair free, also Plush Scarfs and \$10 worth of the latest sheet music. Complete Organ outfit, free. Our factory, with its enormous capacity, enables us to sell you a high-grade instrument at a figure much below that of any other company in the world.

INCORPORATED FOR 50 YEARS.

WE LEAD, OTHERS FOLLOW.

Beethoven Piano and Organ Co.,
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Sell 6 Pounds to earn: Two Pearls and Ruby Centre. Cash Price, \$1.50.



Sell 30 lbs. to earn: Large Fire Opal with Nineteen Pearls. Cash Price, \$9.00.

EARN A GOLD RING

BY SELLING AMONG YOUR FRIENDS

Baker's Teas, Spices, Etc.,

or sell 25 lbs. for Ladies' or Gentlemen's Solid Silver Watch and Chain; 50 lbs. for Waltham or Elgin Gold Watch and Chain; 7 lbs. for Boys' Nickel Watch and Chain; 150 lbs. for Ladies' or Gentlemen's High-Grade Bicycle; 90 lbs. for Youths' or Maidens' Bicycle; 60 lbs. for Boys' or Girls' Bicycle; 13 lbs. for Toilet Set; 50 lbs. for Dinner Set; 45 lbs. for Queen Kitchen Cabinet; 40 lbs. for Brass Bedstead; 10 lbs. for Camera; 35 lbs. for Gramophone. Express Prepaid. Send Postal for Catalogue, Order Sheet and Particulars.

W. G. BAKER (Dept. 87), Springfield, Mass.



Sell 10 Pounds to earn: Amethyst and two Moonstones. Cash Price, \$3.00.



Sell 10 Pounds to earn: A genuine Carbuncle. Cash Price, \$4.00.

40 Cent Patterns for 10 Cents

Any TWO PATTERNS, and FARM AND FIRESIDE one year, for 35 CENTS.

These patterns retail in fashion bazaars and stores for twenty-five to forty cents each, but in order to increase the demand for our paper among strangers, and to make it more valuable than ever to our old friends, we offer them to the lady readers of our papers for the low price of only 10 Cents Each.

Full descriptions and directions—as the number of yards of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by. These patterns are complete in every particular, there

being a separate pattern for every single piece of the dress. All orders filled promptly.

For ladies, give BUST measure in inches. For SKIRT pattern, give WAIST measure in inches. For misses, boys, girls or children, give both BREAST measure in inches and age in years. Order patterns by their numbers.

Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. To get BUST and BREAST measure, put the tape-measure ALL of the way around the body, over the dress close under the arms.

Special price of each pattern, 10 cents.

Postage one cent EXTRA on skirt, tea-gown and other heavy patterns.

Postage paid by us.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.



No. 6738.—BOY'S SHIRT-WAIST, WITH BYRON OR SAILOR COLLAR. 10c. Sizes, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.

Any TWO
Patterns,
and
Farm and
Fireside
one year, for
only
35 cents.



No. 7354.—GIRL'S COSTUME. 11 cents. Sizes, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



No. 7322.—LADIES' SHIRT-WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7317.—LADIES' TEA-GOWN. 11 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches waist.



No. 7203.—MISSSES' WAIST. 10c. Sizes, 12, 14 and 16 years.

No. 7170.—MISSSES' FIVE-GORED SKIRT, WITH FAN BACK. 11c. Sizes, 12, 14 and 16 years.



No. 7327.—LADIES' WAIST. 10c. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.

No. 7324.—MISSSES SIZE. 10c. Sizes, 12, 14 and 16 years.



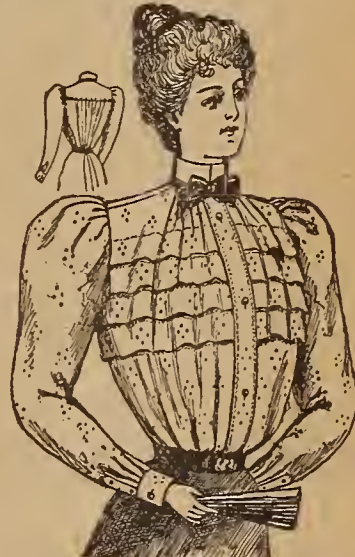
No. 7335.—LADIES' SHIRT-WAIST SLEEVES. 10c. Sizes, large, medium and small.



No. 7326.—LADIES' TEA-GOWN. 11 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7338.—CHILD'S DRESS. 10 cents. Sizes, 4, 6 and 8 years.



No. 7363.—LADIES' WAIST, WITH TUCKED FRONT. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7325.—LADIES' THREE-BUTTONED CUTAWAY JACKET. 10c. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7358.—CHILD'S APRON. 10 cents. Sizes, 4, 6, 8 and 10 years.



No. 7355.—GIRL'S COSTUME. 11 cents. Sizes, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.

We will send any two patterns, and Farm and Fireside one year, for 35 cents.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

GROW.

"Come out from among them, and be ye separate." Then you will "grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," and "grow up into him in all things," "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, into a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."

"The wind that blows can never kill
The tree God plants;
It bloweth east, it bloweth west,
The tender leaves have little rest,
But any wind that blows is best.
The tree God plants
Strikes deeper root, grows higher still,
Spreads wider boughs, for God's good will
Meets all its wants.

"There is no frost hath power to blight
The tree God shields;
The roots are warm beneath soft snows,
And when spring comes it surely knows,
And every bud to blossom grows.
The tree God shields
Grows on apace by day and night,
Till, sweet to taste and fair to sight,
Its fruit it yields.

"There is no storm hath power to blast
The tree God knows;
No thunderbolt, nor beating rain,
Nor lightning flash, nor hurricane;
When they are spent it doth remain.
The tree God knows
Through every tempest standeth fast,
And, from its first day to its last,
Still fairer grows.

"If in the soul's still garden place
And seed God sows—
A little seed—it soon will grow,
And far and near all men will know
For heavenly land he bids it blow.
A seed God sows,
And up it springs by day and night;
Through life, through death it groweth right,
Forever grows."

THE SECRET OF HIS PRESENCE

THE communion of Christ's spirit with the human soul is one of the deepest mysteries of human life, and one of which men of deep feeling seldom speak of to each other, because it is a life hidden within our inmost life. It is none the less an actual presence revealed gently and softly at times as we can bear it, and again coming to us in a flame of warm, unspeakable joy—but always a real presence carrying us, comforting us, abiding in us with divine love.

Mr. Meyer has given us five points in regard to the abiding of the Holy Ghost with us:

Live a clean life. It is useless to pour water into unclean vessels.

Live for Christ.

Wait for the Holy Ghost.

Live in sympathy with other Christians whether you are a church-member or not.

Place yourself under the power of the Holy Ghost, and the Holy Ghost will in turn obey you. The mill-wheel must be placed under the water before the water will turn the wheel. We must first be obedient to the laws of the spirit, and then the spirit will do whatever we ask.

How can we know that we are living in the secret of his presence? Can we endure slights, insults, unkind words in a gentle, regal spirit as if they were not? Then he is keeping us secretly in his presence from the pride of man, keeping us secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

To be aware of the secret of his presence is to walk in a garden of sweetness and quiet, so calm that one can hear all the secret, uninterpreted emotions which stir the soul to a nobler life, as the voice of God. And there is no fear of any earthly harm in this garden, only a constant looking forward to joy.—Frances Bennett Calaway.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure "Drunkenness or the Liquor Habit" with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

COMBINATION PLAN A SUCCESS.

Our department of agents is offering extraordinary inducements this season and it is the best season our canvassers ever had. They nearly all write in much the same strain as Mr. S. W. Hinckley, Los Angeles, California, who says: "I received my outfit yesterday, studied it hard for two hours and in the afternoon went to work, and had 15 orders by nightfall. The subscriptions are enclosed. The combination plan is a most decided success. Send me one hundred more subscription blanks, quick."

THE POWER OF CONSECRATED LIVES.

How often it occurs that persons of no very marked ability who consecrate themselves wholly to the Lord, and devote their lives to his service, become influential and powerful in this world, while others of far greater natural capacity live selfishly and aimlessly, fritter their lives away and sink into oblivion, simply because they lacked that intensity of moral and religious principle to which the others were indebted for their efficiency, power and stability of character.

A man of moderate abilities with faith in God and a firm adherence to right principles, becomes a power in the world. He is known, he is respected, he is deputed upon, his word stands, his understandings are accomplished, whatsoever he doeth prospers, and the blessings of the most high God attends him. In his works and in his ways he may lack genius, he may be destitute of commanding talent; but integrity and uprightness preserve him, and give him strength, permanence and prosperity.

When will men learn that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of true wisdom; and that without this nothing is permanent or enduring? Men who know not God and obey not the gospel may gleam and glitter for awhile with a fitful transient light, but their prosperity is brief, and in a little while they vanish like a dream. The man who serves God, builds upon the rock. Standing fast in the faith, he trusts in the living God, and receives blessing and prosperity at his hand.

O man of earth, cleave to the living God. Belt your machinery to the main shaft of the universe. Be content to be an instrument in God's hands. Let him work in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure; and then your will will be his will, and your work his work; the eternal forces of Diety will push you forward, and as a worker with God you will accomplish what all human power would vainly try to perform.—The Christian.

THE LORD'S COMING.

"Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the son of man cometh." Matt. 25: 11.

"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken and the other left. Watch, therefore, for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come. Blessed is that servant whom his Lord, when he cometh, shall find so doing."—Matt. 24: 36, 40, 42, 46.

"Take heed to yourselves lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares." Luke 21: 34.

Are you ready for the coming of Christ? Are you ready to meet him to-day? Are you doing just what you would wish your Master to find you doing when he comes? Are you ready for the last seal to be set on your character? namely:

"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still; and he that is filthy let him be filthy still; and he that is righteous let him be righteous still; and he that is holy let him be holy still. Behold, I come quickly, and my reward is with me." Can you say, "Amen, even so?"—Sabbath Advocate.

WHAT YOUR SAVIOR WANTS.

Is there nothing that Christ, as your friend, your Lord, your Savior, wants you to do that you are leaving undone to-day? Do you doubt for one instant, with his high and deep love for your soul, that he wants you to pray? And do you pray?

Do you doubt one instant that it is his will that you should honor and help and bless all the men about you who are his brethren? And are you doing anything like that?

Do you doubt one instant that his will is that you should make life serious and lofty? Do you doubt one instant that he wants you to be pure in deed and word and thought? And are you pure?

Do you doubt one instant that his command is for you openly to own him and declare that you are his servant before all the world? And have you done it?

These are the questions which make the whole matter clear. No, not in quiet lanes, nor in bright temple courts as once he spake, and not from blazing heavens, as men sometimes seem to expect, not so does Christ speak to us.

CARPETS FROM THE MILLS SEWING AND LINING FREE TO YOUR FLOOR WE PAY THE FREIGHT



Our new 1898 Catalogue, containing 60 designs of Carpets in the actual colors as they appear in the roll, will be sent FREE to any address.

Every pattern shown is an exact reproduction in color and design of the carpet it represents. Samples showing the quality of our goods will be mailed upon receipt of 10c. to cover postage. We manufacture all the carpets we handle and when you purchase from us you are getting first-class goods at wholesale cost. We employ no agents and pay no commission to any one.

We guarantee every carpet to be as represented, and no matter how low our prices may be the qualities of our goods are of the best. We can save you 40 per cent in your carpet buying. Write for a Free catalogue to-day.

ROYAL ARCH HEAVY SUPER INGRAIN

This is without doubt the heaviest and best wearing quality of carpet ever offered at the price. The patterns have been especially designed for us this season, and are the most desirable ever offered to the public. First class in every way and worth 60c. per yard; our price 35c. Sewing and Lining Free. We Pay the Freight. 35c

Davenport Strictly ALL WOOL INGRAINS

The best carpet for the money that has ever been manufactured. If we did not manufacture these goods we could not afford to sell them at the low price we ask. All New Designs and Colors. Worth 72c. per yard; our price 59c. Sewing and Lining Free. We Pay the Freight. 59c

FAIRMOUNT BRUSSELS CARPET

We have spared no expense in making this grade; one of the most useful and desirable fabrics that can be placed upon your floor. Neither designs nor quality can be duplicated by any other house in the country for less than 85c. per yard; our price 69c. per yard. Sewing and Lining Free. We Pay the Freight. 69c

MONTGOMERY BRUSSELS CARPET

A heavy, good wearing, serviceable Wool Brussels Carpet. Many of the designs have a perfect Body Brussels effect, the colors and designs being such as have heretofore been only seen in high price goods. A dealer would ask you 70c. a yard for a carpet not so good; our price 56c. per yard. Sewing and Lining Free. We Pay the Freight. 56c

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The product of a new mill we have erected and the only soft-pile worsted carpet on the market at the price. The best value we ever offered. Quality superb and the designs rich and handsome. To buy a carpet of this grade is not an expense but an investment actually worth \$1.25 per yard; our price 85c. per yard. Sewing and Lining Free. We Pay the Freight. 85c

CHICAGO MERCHANDISE CO., 808 and 810 MARKET ST., PHILADELPHIA, PENNA.



"I had indigestion and dyspepsia, the doctors said, but I do not know what was the matter. I only know that I almost suffered death, especially when at a delicate period, my bowels were bad, and I had such pains in my back of a morning I could hardly get out of bed. When I had taken Ripans Tabules for two weeks, as directed, I was a new person. These are facts, and my friends can say the same."

The above words are from a letter written by a young lady of Holton, La., whose cousin recommended the Tabules.

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

AMERICAN WOMEN

The very finest Parlor Book published for years at a price within the reach of ordinary homes, while its Literary and Reference Value can hardly be overstated. Edited by the lamented Frances E. Willard jointly with Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. Over 1,400 Half-tone Portraits and Magnificent Full-page Portrait Groupings. Send for our circular, "An Inkling of Its Contents," Specimen Illustrations and Full Particulars, FREE.

AGENTS WANTED

Any intelligent man or woman who will follow the carefully prepared instructions for selling "American Women" can handle this book successfully. Those of bookish tastes and who feel at home among cultured people do extraordinarily well with it. Lady Agents like this book most thoroughly, and are realizing large incomes every week. Write immediately, stating book experience (if any), territory desired, etc.

Address MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, Springfield, Ohio.

RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The surest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MEGRIMME CO., South Bend, Indiana.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book. NO-TO-BAC from cases cured. Buy will your own druggist, who a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

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A Strictly High-Grade '98 Wheel and so guaranteed. Standard tires, flush joints, 2 pc. hanger, every up-to-date feature. Sent C.O.D. on receipt of \$1 with privilege of examination. Our catalogue tells you an up-to-date Bicycle story. Send for it, it's free. WM. WRIGLEY, JR. & CO. 117 Kinzie St., Chicago, or 213 Race St., Philadelphia

Sure Rupture Cure

Wonderful Restoration Reported from Boston, Mass.

GEO. F. MULFORD CURED AFTER SUFFERING EIGHTEEN YEARS.

Despite the claims so frequently made that a surgical operation is necessary to cure rupture, the case of Geo. F. Mulford, of Boston, Mass., who resides at 434 East 5th Street, is pointed out as a direct refutation of the surgery belief. Mr. Mulford was ruptured for eighteen years and tried everything known almost but failed to even derive benefit. His rupture was such that trusses did not hold him, and for this reason the surgery idea was presented to him as the last resort. A final effort was made by the comparatively new method invented by Dr. W. S. Rice, of Smithville, N. Y., well known as a rupture cure specialist, and in two weeks after treatment began Mr. Mulford was practically a cured man without having suffered pain, operation, detention from work or suffering of any kind.



GEO. F. MULFORD.

The important feature of the Rice invention is the fact that it holds any kind of a rupture no matter how severe it may be and is worn with so much ease and comfort night and day that a person scarcely realizes he is wearing it. The case of Mr. Mulford is somewhat identical with that of Geo. Bell, of St. Charles, Minn., reported cured by the same method of treatment. It is a wonderfully brilliant invention, is sold at a marvelously low price and is the greatest blessing ever devised for those who have suffered with rupture and erroneously believe there is no cure outside of the knife.

Readers should send for Dr. Rice's illustrated book on the cure of rupture and mail it to anyone they know to be ruptured. Such an act of kindness will be worth a great deal to those who suffer with this great affliction. Write to Dr. W. S. Rice, Box 543, Smithville (Jeff. Co.), N. Y.

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. **NO TOBACCO** removes the desire for tobacco, with out nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book.

STOP CHEWING!

1,500- sold, 400,000 cases cured. Buy NO TOBACCO from your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1. usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money.

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FREE! We give every girl or woman one of our rolled gold filled or white Puritan rose diamond rings, solid gold pattern for disposing of 20 packages of Garfield Pepsin Gum among friends at 5 cents a package; simply send name; we mail gum; when sold send money and we mail ring which few can tell from a genuine \$75 diamond; we take gum back if you can't sell. GARFIELD GUM CO., Dept B-5 Meadville, Pa.

SEND TEN CENTS for 36 pages of the loveliest vocal and instrumental music ever published; (pages full sheet music size); including 6 Large Half-Tone Portraits of the most beautiful actresses. Elegant paper 72 pages and 12 portraits, 20c. N. Y. Musical Echo Co., Savannah, Ga.

WE WANT A MAN in every city or township to look after our business; steady work and liberal pay the year round. Some men have realized OVER \$100.00 FROM ONE WEEK'S WORK. Places for a few ladies. Write at once to J. W. JONES CO., Springfield, OHIO.

CANVASSERS COIN CASH in working for me. Ladies and gentlemen, this is your great opportunity. **OUT-FIT FREE.** Are you ready? Workers write at once to E. HANNAFORD, Springfield, Ohio.

CARDS Send 2c. stamp for Sample Book of all the FINEST & LATEST Styles in Beveled Edge, Hidden Name, Silk Fringe, Envelope and Calling Cards for 1898. WE SELL GENUINE CARDS, NOT TRASH. UNION CARD CO., Columbus, Ohio.

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Ladies, Boys and Girls Earn a 1898 Bicycle, Gold Filled Watch or Camera taking orders for Tea, Coffee, Baking Powder, Extracts, Toilet Soap, Etc. —FOR ILLUSTRATED PREMIUM LIST AND FULL PARTICULARS ADDRESS— NATIONAL CONSOLIDATED CO., 92 State St., Chicago, Ill.

\$15 to \$35 a week and expenses paid men to sell cigars; experience unnecessary. W. L. KLINE CO., Dept. F., St. Louis, Mo.

RUBBER GOODS of every description. Cat'lg free. Edwin Mercer & Co., Toledo, O.

SPECTACLES at wholesale. Send for catalog. Agents wanted. COULTER OPTICAL CO. Chicago, Ill.

Smiles.

NO CHANCE TO MISS THE MARK.

DR. PAYSON, the famous and beloved preacher of Portland, Maine, used to tell the following pointed story:

One very stormy Sunday he went to church, more from habit than because he expected to find anybody there. Just after he had stepped inside the door an old negro came in and asked if Dr. Payson was to preach there that day, explaining that he was a stranger in town, and had been advised to go to his church.

"Upon that," said Dr. Payson, "I made up my mind to preach my sermon, if nobody else came."

Nobody else did come, so the doctor preached to the choir and the old negro.

Some months after he happened to meet the negro, and stopping him, asked how he enjoyed the sermon that stormy Sunday.

"Enjoy dat sermon?" replied the old man. "I 'clar, doctor, I nebber heard a better one. You see, I had a seat pretty well up in front, an' whenever you'd say somethin' I'd jess look all 'roun' ter see nobody on'y jess me. An' I says to m'self, 'He must mean you, Pomp, you's sech a dretful sinner.' Well, doctor, dat are sermon set me a-thinkin' what a big sinner I war, an' I went an' jined the church down home. I'ze a deacon, now."—Syracuse Standard.

POSTPONED.

"I defy you! Draw!" exclaimed the torpedo-fish.

"That suits me," replied the swordfish. "We'll test the question right here whether the modern style of fighting with electric batteries is better than the old methods!"

And in another moment the contest would have begun had not some of the bys-wimmers interfered and insisted on referring the matter to a congress of fish, which congress is still wrangling over the question whether it should recognize the contestants as belligerents or merely proclaim that a state of war exists between them.

ONE OF MR. SPEAKER'S JOKES.

Recently Speaker Reed wished to see a man on some pending legislation, and telegraphed for him to come to Washington. The man took the first train available, but a washout on the road made it impossible for the train to proceed farther toward its destination. Going to a telegraph station, he sent this dispatch to the speaker:

"Washout on line. Can't come." When Reed read the message he sent back this reply: "Buy a new shirt and come anyway."—Boston Herald.

THE EXCUSE.

The teacher of a city school recently received the following note explaining the absence of one of the pupils the day before: "Plese excoose Henny for absents yesterday. Him and me got a chance at a ride to a funeral in a charrige, an' I let him stay at home, as he had never rode in a charrige, an' never went to a funeral, nor had many other pleasures. So plesse excoose."—Harper's Round Table.

SYMPATHETIC.

"Excuse me, sir," said the beggar, "but I must have help. I cannot keep body and soul together."

"Poor fellow," said the sympathetic pedestrian. "Here is a bottle of mucilage. Take a tablespoonful three times a day, and you'll not be likely to come apart."—Harper's Bazar.

ONE DEGREE HIGHER.

They had been college friends, and now, some years after, Angela, visiting her former room-mate in her cozy home, said:

"Well, Frances, I have worked awfully hard, but at last I've accomplished what I set out to. I'm an 'A.M.'"

"You have done well," said Frances, "but I've done better; I'm an 'MA.'"—Truth.

THE FIENDISH WAY.

Chief demon—"Your majesty, Spanish visitors have just arrived on the Styx ferry. What orders?"

His Majesty Satan—"Tell Charon to anchor them out there over that biggest mine, and when you are sure they are sound asleep, blow them up; and do it every day hereafter."—Judge.

THE NEW JOURNALISM.

"Paper?"

"No, my boy, I can't read."

"Yuh don't have to read. Yuh can tell others, can't you?"

THE SORROW OF IT.

He—"Farewell."

She—"Farewell. Will you ever call again?"

He—"To-morrow night."—Truth.

'SHOULDN'T GRUMBLE.

Crawford—"It doesn't seem to matter what the doctor prescribes for my wife, the grasping druggist charges seventy-five cents for the prescription."

Crabshaw—"That's nothing. My wife's doctor prescribed a bicycle for her, and it cost me \$100."—Truth.

TO HELP THE THING ALONG.

"Yes, grandfuther is ninety-nine years and six months of age."

"You ought to get him a bicycle."

"What for?"

"So as to help him make a century."—Judge.

LITTLE BITS.

"Oh, Bridget, I told you to notice when the apples boiled over."

"Sure, I did, mum. It was quarter past eleven."—Bangor News.

Belle—"I had an awful scare the other day while out for a walk with Will."

Betsy—"How?"

Belle—"Why, we met the minister, and Will asked him to jolu us."—Yonkers Statesman.

"Do your really think the young fellow who wants to marry Janie is a bona-fied Klondiker?"

"I guess he is. He's short an ear and three toes and has a frost-bitten chin."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

In Corsica and in some parts of France it is the custom to regard all barbers as insane. If you ask the explanation of this you will be told that the want of mental balance is caused by the barber's habit of constantly gazing at himself in the mirror.

Former resident—"What did Prodigle do with the hlg fortune that was left to him? Ran through it in a year, I suppose?"

Friend—"Oh, no! His wife prevented that."

Former resident—"Good for her!"

Friend—"Yes; she ran through it in six months."—Puck.

"You are advertising quite early in the year," said the summer-resort landlord's friend.

"Yes, I always fix up my announcements at this time of year. You see, I am a thoroughly conscientious man, and I wish to be able to state that there are no mosquitoes."—Washington Star.

Flick—"Call him a musician! Why, he doesn't know the difference between a nocturne and a symphony."

Flack—"You don't mean it?" And they hurry to get away from one another. Each is terribly afraid that the other will ask: "By the way, what is the difference?"—Boston Transcript.

Doctor—"You ought to take that child into the country for several weeks every summer."

Mother—"Oh, doctor, I'm sorry to say we are not rich enough."

Doctor—"Well, then, have her sent by a fresh-air fund."

Mother—"But, doctor, we're 'not poor enough!"—Fliegende Blatter.

"They tell me that Cranston has gone off through the country giving readings from his own works."

"So I understand. He is to travel 3,000 miles in sixteen days. Great test of endurance, that!"

"Great test of endurance! Why, I should think that just reading his own works would lay him out. It does me."—Harper's Bazar.

"What is this Mosquito Fleet the papers are talking about?" asked Mrs. Hicks of her husband, Colonel Hicks. "It isn't the Flying Squadron, is it?"

"It is New Jersey's contribution to our armament, and has nothing to do with the Flying Squadron," said the Colonel; "and I may add that it is a very important branch of the service, if it really comes to drawing blood."—Harper's Bazar.

A Kansas farmer who could not get harvest-hands put this notice upon his fence:

"Harvest-hands wanted. Hired girl pretty and genial. Cabinet-organ music in the evening. Pie three times a day. Three spoonfuls of sugar with every cupful of coffee. Hammocks, feather-beds or leather divans at your option for sleeping. Rising-hour, nine o'clock in the morning. Three hours' rest at noon. Come one—come all."—Truth.

A little girl who has spent nearly all her life in the city, visited a farm last summer for the first time. On the day after her arrival, while exploring the barn, she frightened a hen from her nest in which were two eggs. She quickly seized upon the booty, and then, surprised at the warmth of the eggs, ran with one of them in each hand to her mother. "Look, mamma," she cried, "there is a hen out in the barn that lays eggs already cooked."—Truth.

"Wouldn't your majesty like to take out some life insurance?" respectfully asked the agent, on being admitted to the royal presence.

"I can't afford it," replied King Solomon.

"It's about all I can do to look after my family while I'm alive."

Waving his hand to signify that the interview was ended, he turned to the speaking-tube and ordered his steward to provide three hundred porterhouse steaks and seven hundred veal cutlets, breaded, with tomato sauce, for the family dinner.—Detroit Journal.

Young Womanhood.

Sweet young girls! How often they develop into worn, listless, and hopeless women because mother has not impressed upon them the importance of attending to physical development.

No woman is exempt from physical weakness and periodical pain, and young girls just budding into womanhood should be guided physically as well as morally.

If you know of any young lady who is sick and needs motherly advice, ask her to address Mrs. Pinkham at Lynn, Mass., and tell every detail of her symptoms, surroundings and occupations. She will get advice from a source that has no rival in experience of women's ills. Tell her to keep nothing back.

Her story is told to a woman, not to a man. Do not hesitate about stating details that she may not wish to mention, but which are essential to a full understanding of her case, and if she is frank, help is certain to come!

24 SILVER PLATED PIECES WARE FREE



To quickly introduce our Medical Remedies we will give this handsome complete 24 piece Silver plated table service: 6 forks, 6 knives, 6 table spoons & 6 teaspoons, all silver plated & guaranteed to every person who will sell only 6 boxes of our wonderful Vegetable Pills & 6 boxes of Positive Corn Cure at 25 cts. a box. If you agree to do this write to-day & we will send Remedies on consignment at once, when sold you send us the money & we send the complete 24 pieces, knives, forks, table spoons & teaspoons same day money is received. Am. Medicine Co., Dept. A, 80 W. 18th St. N. Y. City.

FAT

HOW TO REDUCE IT

Miss M. Nobles Racine, Wis., writes: "Your remedy reduced my weight 54 lbs. and I think it is the simplest and grandest remedy in the world to reduce superfluous fat." It is purely vegetable and can be prepared at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. Sample box and full particulars in plain envelope sent free to anyone. It costs you nothing to try it.

HALL CHEM. CO., B BOX, St. Louis, Mo.

Cancer Cured.

DR. B. F. BYE'S Oils for cancers and tumors are a painless cure. Most cases are treated at home without the services of a physician. Send for book telling what wonderful things are being done. Gives instant relief from pain.

If not afflicted, cut this out and send it to some suffering one.

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RUPTURE SURE CURE at home, small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. A complete radical cure to all (old or young) Easy to use. Thousands cured. Book free (sealed). DR. W. S. RICE, Box T, Smithville, N. Y.

ASTHMA Correspondence invited. No charge for advice as to curability. P. HAROLD HAYES, M. D., Buffalo, N. Y.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. BOTOT, Augusta, Maine.

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FREE TO AGENTS—Complete outfit for big paying business. All profits clear, as we pay charges. The rush is on, so come quick. FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, O.

LADIES! A friend in need is a friend indeed! address THE WOMAN'S MED. HOME, Buffalo, N. Y.

FITS A Great Remedy Discovered. Send for a FREE package & let it speak for itself. Postage 6c. DR. S. PERKEY, Chicago, Ill.

RUPTURE Sure Cure at home. 30 Days' Treatment FREE. Dr. W. B. JEFFERS, Box E, Bishop Street, Jeff. Co., N. Y.

BED-WETTING CURED or no pay. Mrs. B. Rowan, Milwaukee, Wis.

DR. SAAKROMPON EYE WATER

Our Miscellany.

SALESMAN—"An interesting book? Yes, madam. How will 'The Sorrows of Satan' do?" Madam—"No, thanks. I have troubles of my own."—Truth.

AN Honorable Function—Pat—"What does yez do at the new club?" Mike—"O'm on the house-warmin' committee." Pat—"What's thot?" Mike—"O'm run the furnace."—Harlem Life.

THE General View—"I'd just as lieve go to war as not," said the man with the sandy whiskers, "if I could go as a general." "So would I," declared the smooth-faced man, "but I'll be blowed if I want to go and do the shooting while somebody else gets the credit for it."—Cleveland Leader.

FIRST sea-serpent—"Say, it looks as if we were going to have a pretty dull time along the coast this summer." Second ditto—"You may have a dull time, but I expect to scare more people than ever." "How are you going to work it?" "I'm going to tie a yellow Spanish flag to the tip of my tail."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Being postmistress," writes Mrs. W. P. Harris, Youngs, South Carolina, "I am in position to know the tastes and preferences of people, and certainly your magazine, WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, is most popular. Its already good list at this office will be considerably increased this winter. I like to receive orders for it, as I know it will please so well."

BEFORE the House assembled each day there is placed on the Speaker's desk a box-shaped tray of solid silver. Promptly after the House adjourns it is taken back again to the speaker's room. It contains three small bottles, one for red ink, one for black ink, and one for sand, such as was used in early days for drying ink, before the time of blotting-paper. The ink-tray is part of the furniture of the Speaker's room, and has more than ordinary interest, for it was used by Henry Clay when he occupied the Speaker's chair.—Washington Post.

AMONG the strongest of the younger men, Booker T. Washington, of Alabama, easily ranks first as a thinker and orator. His principal claim to distinction, however, is the splendid work he has done as an educator, a department of work in which he has had no equal among the men of the Afro-American race, past or present. He first gained national reputation as the spokesman of his race at the Atlanta Exposition in 1895. Since that time he has been universally regarded by the press and the people of the country as the strongest man of his race, enjoying alike the confidence and esteem of the thinking people of the South as well as the North. Mr. Washington is about forty-two years of age. He is an indefatigable worker, and possesses even greater magnetism as a popular speaker than Mr. Douglass. He is a very safe man, never being swept off his feet by popular applause or condemnation. His conservatism is his chief element of strength. He believes in the South, the black and the white South, and labors unceasingly to create a good and helpful understanding between the races, and the confidence of the white South, which he enjoys in such a large measure, enables him to do more in this direction than any other man of his race. Mr. Washington is not only a man of splendid courage, but of infinite tact. He has made fewer mistakes than usually falls to a man placed in his delicate position.—New York Sun.

OLD COURT DAYS IN WINDHAM.

So here at Newfane remain many of the old court customs and the good cheer of other days, and which in many other places are departing; this especially in larger county-seat villages, where attorneys can return at night to their homes, where litigants and jurors avail themselves of the same privilege, and where, as a result, the good cheer and the real wit and enjoyment of the olden-time court sitting are lacking. One enjoys much of the restfulness and quiet of the village, as also the pure air, the clear water from mountain springs, and the hospitable board of the country inn. Especially enjoyable are the frankness and cordiality of the honest country folk, who find this, their courting-place, as a shire town twice a year, there to settle by evidence, law and equity, what is right and proper in all disputes between man and man. The best of it is, there is no disposition to move the courts away from this delightful old town; for bench, bar and citizens all enjoy the retention of the old court-house, old ways and unique order of things.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

"It is not a year since I was here," writes Mr. S. B. Robinson, from Winfield, Kansas, "and took a lot of Peerless Atlas orders, you remember, with WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION; and three other men have been here since, and took a lot more. Yet I am having a good trade. The new Alaska and Klondike map and official history interests everybody. You did a good thing for agents, as well as the public, when you added this feature to Peerless Atlas." Mr. Robinson has sent us over three thousand orders for Peerless Atlas combinations since the first day of last March.

PAPER CARTRIDGES USED IN THE CIVIL WAR.

A New London man made an interesting discovery the other day. While rummaging in the garret of his house he picked up an old army knapsack carried by his brother in the Federal army in the dark days of '61 to '65. He opened the knapsack and found within quite a number of wartime cartridges, which, as all veterans know, are quite different from those now in use. They are paper cartridges, the end of which had to be bitten off by the man in the ranks before loading his musket. A "Day" reporter showed the cartridges to several army veterans, and their eyes glazed at the sight. They acted like they had just been introduced to an old friend whom they had not seen for many years. One of the ex-soldiers said the commands for loading in the days of the war were as follows:

"Handle cartridge, tear cartridge, charge cartridge, draw rammer, ram cartridge, return rammer, prime, ready, aim, fire." At present the order is: "Load, ready, aim, fire." The paper shell is a thing of the long ago, and the brass shell has taken its place, but it makes an old vet feel young again to get his hands on one of those old-timers, though as a rule, the teeth of the G. A. R. man would hardly stand biting the paper end off these late days.—New London (Conn.) Day.

MOTHER BUZZARD HAS HATCHED IN THE SAME TREE FOR 75 YEARS.

DICKSON, March 26th.—The longevity of the buzzard was being discussed by a party of men at the hotel here to-day, when "Uncle" Charley Smith, aged 94 years, declared that the average life of this fowl is 100 years. Four miles north of Dickson, in a lonely forest, stands an old hollow oak with an entrance at the root. In this "Uncle" Charley declares that seventy-five years ago, on the 27th of this coming May, he found, while hunting game, a nest of young buzzards, two in all. The mother bird, which could be distinguished by a white feather in her right wing, made a great protest against "Uncle" Charley's intrusion, and he left the brood unmolested. Ever since the same buzzard has reared her brood of two feeble goslings in this secluded spot, and no one knows how long she had occupied the place before "Uncle" Charley found her. The young birds, until they are six weeks old, are white and bear a strong resemblance to a gosling. They are very timid, and on the approach of an enemy they always hide their heads and leave their bodies exposed. Their abode is very fowl, and in these seventy-five years no animal has ever been known to disturb the nest, nor has a gosling ever been known to die.—The Nashville Banner.

MISCALLED.

First Senator—"You lie!"
Second Senator (advancing toward him)—"Say, I'll—"
First Senator—"I dare you! Come outside!"
President of the Senate—"Gentlemen! Gentlemen!"
[Derisive laughter in the galleries.]

MORE THAN ONE KIND.

"Isn't that Mr. Hankinson's ring at the door, Winifred?" asked Mrs. Plunkett.
And Miss Plunkett, blushing rosily as she thought of something which she had every reason to suspect was in Mr. Hankinson's waistcoat pocket, answered that she believed it was.

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

The Aultman Company, Canton, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of rock crushers, road machines, road rollers, road plows, wheeled scrapers, all kinds of road and street machinery. Catalogue of engines and threshers equipped with latest and best improvements.
G. Camerer, Madison, Ind. Catalogue of vineless sweet potato tubers and plants. Circular of Golden Wyandotte chickens.
John W. Hall, Marion Station, Md. Catalogue of choice strawberry-plants and second-crop seed-potatoes.
The Rubber Tire Wheel Co., Springfield, Ohio. Illustrated catalogue of rubber tires and roller bearings for vehicles.

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Special price of Farm and Fireside and Set of 6 Tablespoons - \$1.25
Set of 6 Tablespoons given free for a club of six subscribers.

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Repeating Globe Air-rifle given free for a club of eight yearly subscribers. Sent by express, charges collect.

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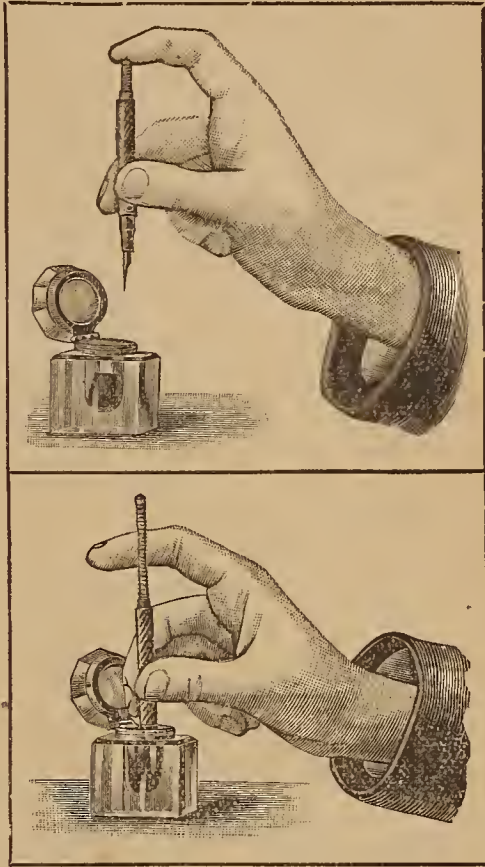


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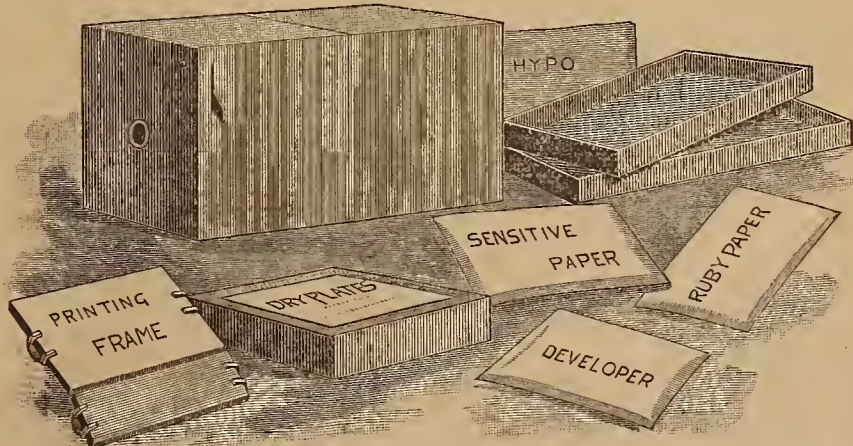
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History records wars of conquest and gain, wars of ambition, hate and revenge, wars for religion and wars for independence; but destiny has reserved it for the American nation to make war solely for the cause of humanity. At immense sacrifices and without hope or expectation of material gain, the United States is now engaged in a war to relieve from oppression the people of other lands and races. It is making war to crush barbarism and advance civilization. The American flag is unfurled over the struggle for human liberty on both sides of the world. The world can hardly comprehend war on such a high plane. It is the beginning of a new era in history. More than a century ago this nation gained its own independence. A century's enjoyment of the blessings of liberty makes it the duty of the American people to aid other peoples to secure their independence.

In our civil war the original purpose of the Northern states in taking up arms was to save the Union, not to abolish slavery. But the war moved beyond the limits first defined for it, and expanded its original purpose to the broader field of human rights; and when peace returned, the Union was preserved and slavery was abolished. Lincoln said: "I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave and half free." When the present war ends, Spain and her colonies will not be half slave and half free.

"For freedom's battle, once begun,
Bequeathed by bleeding sire to son,
Though baffled oft, is ever won."

GENERAL MILES concludes an article in the "Forum" for April on the political situation in Europe and the East as follows:

"We are fortunate in being isolated from other countries. We are blessed with a virgin soil and great natural resources. At the same time, however, there are questions of vast importance which will require the attention of our ablest statesmen, in order that the prosperity and enterprise of the country may be preserved, and the comfort and welfare of its millions of toilers guarded. For this reason, it will be necessary to build up our commerce wherever it has declined, so that we may successfully compete in the markets of the world. During the last thirty years our people have spread a steel network over our great western empire. The hardy soldiers, pioneers, miners and home-builders have transformed the wild prairies and mountain wastes of the great West into civilized, prosperous and progressive communities and states. Yet, while this transformation has been going on, other countries have been making progress, which may in time rival that of our own country. Great changes have been made in India, Egypt, South America, Australia and Africa, as well as in the vast regions of Siberia; and we should not be unmindful of these changes, as they may affect our own interests and commercial welfare in the future. The events now transpiring simultaneously in Europe and the far East are very ominous. The trade of China, if not her existence as an independent nation, is involved. Whether territorial dismemberment of the empire is contemplated time alone will determine. As regards the economic phase of the struggle, however, our country cannot be a disinterested spectator. What active form our interests shall take is a problem which must be solved by our statesmen.

"While we view with great interest and some concern the position of the great powers in their relations to the question to be solved in the far East, it is impossible to foretell what movement will be made in the near future upon the world's chess-board—whether there shall be a concert of action, or whether rivalry, jealousy, avarice and ambition shall involve the principal nations in the most serious war of modern times. As important events are following each other with such rapidity, it cannot be long before we shall be able to judge of the extent to which our own political and commercial interests, and those of our neighbors along the line of the republics of South America, will be affected."

THE naval history of Spain for four centuries past is the history of the Corsair. In conflicts with other powers Spain's navy never won a victory, but the deeds of Spanish pirates have never been surpassed. It was the "ruling passion strong in death" that made Spain declare at the beginning of the present war that she would engage, under cover of an auxiliary navy, in privateering on American commerce. This action was expected by our government and prepared for weeks ago. Our Asiatic squadron, at Hong-Kong, was reinforced and fully supplied with provisions, coal and ammunition. Spain's expected stand on privateering made just cause for immediate action in the Pacific. Within a few days of the formal declaration of war Commodore Dewey had steamed over six hundred miles to Manila Bay and destroyed the Spanish fleet there. By one brilliant stroke American commerce in the Pacific was freed from danger, Spain's title to the Philippines taken away, and liberty given to the people of those islands. Spain's steps seemed guided now toward swift retribution for her crimes against humanity. The sword of justice has been drawn and terrible will be its execution.

THE Chicago "Times-Herald," under date of May 4th, says: "Telegraphic communication with the Philippine Islands has been interrupted since the Spanish fleet was destroyed by Commodore Dewey. Hong-Kong reports that electrical experiments prove that the cable was cut about fifty miles from Manila. Several days necessarily must elapse before repairs can be made. Advices from Madrid state that the cable was cut by the Spaniards after explicit orders from their home government had been received.

"This incident and the fact that martial law has been declared in Madrid are highly significant as showing the present state of popular feeling in Spain. The rupture of the Manila cable will prevent the full details of the Spanish losses from reaching Madrid for several days, and in the meantime it is hoped that overheated excitement will cool off considerably. But to guard against riotous outbreaks the Spanish capital has been turned over to the military authorities, and the rigors of martial law already are experienced. There is every reason to believe that Spain's hardest trial is at hand. She is facing a revolution at home which threatens the very existence of the government. It is probable that nothing short of European intervention can save the Spanish crown, no matter whether Spain's colonial possessions are sacrificed or not. As soon as 'Spanish honor is satisfied' the nations of Europe will help her make the best possible terms with the United States. Unless all present indications are misleading Spain will emerge from this war a bankrupted monarchy without a colony, and the end cannot long be postponed."

THE final crop report of the Department of Agriculture estimates the wheat crop of 1897 at 530,149,168 bushels. The total value of the crop, estimated at the average farm price on December 1st, was \$428,547,121. The 1897 December average farm price, 80.8 cents a bushel, is 8.2 cents higher than in 1896, and 29.9 cents higher than 1895. The average yield to the acre in 1897 was 13.4 bushels, which is .7 bushel higher than the average for the ten years from 1887 to 1896, and it has been exceeded but twice within this period—in 1891 it was 15.3, and in 1895 it was 13.7 bushels.

After a period of steadiness the wheat market became excited in April, and prices advanced to the highest level reached in seven years. On April 29th the New York price of No. 1 northern was \$1.27½, against \$1.06 April 1st, and \$1.05 January 1st. The visible supply of wheat is stated to be less now than at any time since 1891, being less than 26,000,000 bushels, or about 10,000,000 bushels less than one year ago, and from 32,000,000 to 49,000,000 bushels less than in the preceding years back to 1893. The price of bread has advanced all over Europe, speculation is broad and active, and a period of fluctuating prices is on again.

WITH THE VANGUARD

THE historic resolution passed by Congress demanded that Spain relinquish her authority over and withdraw her forces from Cuba, and declared that the United States disclaimed any intention to exercise sovereignty over the island, and would leave its future government and control to its own people. To free the people of Cuba is the expressed purpose of the American people. Spain accepted the resolution as a declaration of war, and war there is. But the necessary measures of war immediately broadened action far beyond the limits of the resolution, and developed a wider purpose than it contains. War will free the people of all Spain's colonies.

It was strategy of the highest order which planned that the first great action between the armed forces of the United States and Spain should take place in the Philippine Islands. Commodore Dewey's brilliant victory in Manila bay is not only one of the greatest achievements in naval history, but one of the most important events in political history. The people of this country have had their interest and sympathies centered on the one and one half million oppressed inhabitants of near-by Cuba. It comes to them with startling suddenness that six or eight times that number of people in the far-away Philippines, as the first result of the war, have been set free from the tyranny of Spain.

The statesmanship of peace was intervention in behalf of Cuba; the statesmanship of war is freedom for every people so unfortunate to be under Spanish misgovernment. Indeed, freedom for the people of Spain herself is involved in this contest. The tottering Bourbon monarchy, forced to fight as a desperate resort to save itself a little while longer in Spain, cannot long survive inevitable defeat in the war with the United States. Whether it is succeeded by a Republic or by a Carlist constitutional monarchy, the people of Spain will be benefited.

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Condition Powders. Feed-stores and country groceries all over do a thriving trade in condition powders of all sorts—cattle-powders, powders for swine, powders to make hens lay, etc. This is a good enough thing for the stores, for there is a good discount in these powders; it is still better for the manufacturers who take comparatively cheap substances, mix them up and sell the mixture for a good round sum. But it is a losing trade for the people who buy and use these so-called condition powders. Thousands upon thousands of the farmers' hard-earned dollars are spent in this way, and wasted just as effectually as the largest share of the money is wasted that people pay for the patent medicines which fill the shelves of our drug-stores. No greater truth was ever spoken about this subject than found in Dr. C. D. Smead's reply to a request for a recipe for a good condition powder. He said: "The best condition powder for horses known to veterinary science is composed of ground oats, one hundred pounds, wheat bran, fifty pounds, and linseed-oil meal, from ten to twenty pounds, owing to whether the horse is of constipated habit or not. . . . A proper food will keep the horse in condition all the time, while, as a matter of fact, the improper food produces about sixty per cent of the ailments that farmers' horses are subject to." Just as long as we feed properly, namely, what is called a "balanced ration," our animals will not be liable to be out of order, or to be in need of condition powders. But it is a fact that run-down animals frequently improve wonderfully when condition powders are given. Dr. Smead gives this explanation: "Nine times out of every ten, when condition powders are fed, a change is made in the ration, and the owner is satisfied with the powder, believing it to have done almost wonders for his animals, little realizing that the change of food had as much or more to do with producing the change in the animal's condition as the medicine." Usually the condition powders are fed in bran or bran and ground oats, and that is just the feed that animals will need after being fed largely on straw, timothy hay, corn and corn-meal.

Home-mixed Medicines.

In some cases the use of some tonic or stimulating powder may be advisable. Farmers will feed improperly simply because they do not fully understand the principles of proper feeding, and they wish to feed what they happen to have without spending money for things they have to buy. Consequently the digestive powers of the animal often become impaired, and must be strengthened and built up by tonics. But why buy the ready mixtures at high prices when we can make our own, and as good as the best in market, at a small fraction of the price asked for the mixtures? Dr. Smead gives the following formula for a good general tonic: "Powdered nitrate of potash, one pound; Jamaica ginger, four ounces; powdered goldenseal and gentian-root, of each three ounces; powdered anise-seed, two ounces; mix. For a dose, give a round teaspoonful in oats, wheat bran or chaffed oats and bran. This is a safe tonic condition powder, and contains no arsenic and antimony, as many of the condition powders on the market do."

We have become converts to the doctrine of home-mixing of fertilizers, of condition powders, etc., and surely of fly-repelling substances. I have heretofore told of my own mixtures for protecting cattle from the fly pest during summer and autumn. They consist chiefly of oil of tar and kerosene-oil. A reader of the "Rural New-Yorker" gives the following as a thoroughly effective formula: "For twelve cows I mix thoroughly five pounds of the cheapest grease available, with one pint of coal-tar, one ounce of carbolic crystals and one half pint of kerosene. This should be applied by rubbing on the back, on the sides, at the base of the horns and under the flanks and shoulders. I use a woolen cloth, and rub thoroughly. A few applications will usually be found sufficient for the season. It holds out better than anything else I have tried."

Home-mixed Fertilizers.

The Ohio experiment station has made some interesting experiments for the purpose of comparing the effects secured from the use of factory and home mixtures, and reports that home mixtures of similar chemical composition, made from tankage, acid phosphate, muriate of potash, etc., have given an equal increase of crop when used on corn, with standard brands of factory-mixed fertilizers, and at a reduction of more than forty per cent in cost. The station says that the actual cost of mixing is less than a dollar a ton. This is a most important matter with all users of fertilizers, and every one should ask the station for copy of the full report. As an example of the general outcome, I will mention the first test, as follows: Factory brand A, costing \$30.00 a ton, produced an average increase of 6.1 bushels an acre. Home-mixture A, costing \$18.24 a ton, produced an average increase of 6.4 bushels an acre. What a chance for saving money in these home mixtures!

Meat and Vegetables.

We all believe in the free use of vegetables and fruits, and that such proper use is natural and conducive to health. For many years I have been urging people to eat more of them and less fried stuff, especially meats and grease. A number of my correspondents have taken me to task for my criticisms on the "high living" indulged in by American farmers, but others have come to indorse my views with great enthusiasm. A few days ago I had the following letter: "Traveling in Europe and noting the frugality of the people there and their consequent good health, one laments the wastefulness in our country. Europeans say we must become dyspeptic, because we swallow mountains of baking-powder and oceans of lard and stimulants. The only remedy for our bad table-habits is vegetarianism. For the vegetarian diet is claimed that while it contains all the essentials of strength taken directly from the storehouse of nature it avoids many of the dangers of artificial stimulation. Rheumatism, cancer and fevers are caused by meat, as it vilifies the blood. I have been cured of rheumatism of long standing by abstaining from meat, and was not this a gratifying cure? No nasty medicines to take and no doctor bills to pay. I agree with you that Americans throw too much money away on the doctor. In Ireland, where the people are poor and cannot pay doctors, there these poison-dealers are

scarce—and behold what a sturdy race the Irish are! I also thank you for your article in defense of the birds. How can any one begrudge the birds some cherries and seeds, and yet profit by their untiring service." This was signed by a lover of birds, fruits and vegetables. I will not go so far as to reject meat entirely. In fact, I eat a good deal of meat myself, especially good tender beef, chickens and even some pork, and enjoy it and feel well. It is not the use, but the abuse of these things, especially the restriction to an almost exclusive meat diet, that I protest against.

Bats as Friends.

As every one who is in the least familiar with the life-history of the bat, knows this little flying quadruped is a great insect-destroyer, and as it moves about and hunts during the early hours of the night only, it gets hold of just such moths and other night-prowlers (like the June beetle) which our bird friends cannot well get hold of, except the latter happen to find these insects in their day hiding-places asleep. The codling-moth which lays the egg that hatches the worm that eats into our apples moves about mostly during the time when the bat is on the wing, and undoubtedly bats destroy great numbers of them. Recently some of our western contemporaries suggested the idea to collect bats in caves, etc., box and ship them to any place wanted, and there turn them loose to serve as "night-watchmen." In many parts of the country, it is said, caves are found in which bats winter over in a torpid state by the thousand. Artificial caves might be constructed in our fruit regions, and the bats introduced and bred. I give the idea for what it may be worth. T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Teaching

Calves to Drink.

A short time ago I saw a friend try to teach a young calf to drink. He began with gentle demeanor, but in a very short time he was fighting mad, the calf wild with fear, and over half the milk was on the floor. He gave the poor, ignorant beast several bad names and a hard kick, then took the remainder of the milk and left it hungry. The reason he failed to instruct was because he began wrong. He backed the calf into a corner, got astride its neck, and while he held the pail with one hand he pushed the calf's nose down into the milk with the other. The result was what might have been expected—a sudden lurch and hunt on the part of the calf, and milk splashed over the man from his eyes to his toes. Then he was mad, the calf frightened half to death, and the first lesson terminated.

I have taught a large number of calves to drink, and done it so easily and quietly that nobody ever suspected that anything had happened. I place a box, large enough to hold a pail, in one corner of the shed, set the pail containing the warm milk in it, then by gentle movements get the calf to come to it. Dipping two fingers in the milk and putting them in the calf's mouth, I give it a taste. I repeat the dipping, and gradually lead the animal down to the milk, and it sucks it in while sucking my finger. The second lesson is much shorter. The calf has learned where the milk is, and little trouble is experienced in getting its head down to it; then while it is drawing in the milk I quickly slip my finger out. I repeat these motions until the animal "catches on," which it will do in a very short time. The third lesson consists in leading the calf's nose down to the milk, and after that it will look out for itself. When the pail is set in a box the calf cannot tip it over nor hunt the milk out of it, and no holding is necessary. I have had calves to drink right along after one lesson, others only after three or four. The calf must not be held in any position; it will hold itself. All that is necessary is to give it a taste of the milk and teach it where to find it.

Corn for Cows on Pasture.

One of the best farmers I know feeds his milk-cows a ration of corn once a day all summer. The effect on the flow of milk and its richness is marked, while the cows, running on first-class pasture, are kept in excellent flesh. Another farmer whose cows are always in excellent condition, and yield a large flow of milk, feeds only three or four ears of

corn at each milking, but he keeps them out of the pasture at night and feeds them good hay. He says a third less pasture is required, while it is kept in much better condition and yields a fair supply of green feed until an abundance of sweet corn is ready for cutting.

When and Where to Feed Corn for Soiling.

A farmer in Indiana writes: "I like your idea of growing a soiling-crop of corn to help out the pastures when grass begins to fail, but I think it would be better to feed it in a yard rather than in the pasture. When flies are bad, along in July and August, I shall let my cows run in the pasture at night and keep them in the yard during the day. There is a large shed in this yard, with good mangers, and in these mangers I shall feed them a good supply of green sweet corn morning and evening. They will thus be sheltered from the sun during the day, and can huddle together to fight the flies, while at night they can fill themselves with grass without annoyance from any source. It is the trampling a pasture gets that hurts the grass. I know that grazed grass will grow all summer if it is not trampled to death." Our friend's ideas are good. No one at all familiar with the facts will deny that the trampling a pasture receives injures it far more than the grazing. And I believe that cattle do trample a pasture much more during the day than at night; therefore, his plan of keeping his cows up during the day, and feeding them a soiling-crop at a time when the growth of grass is rather slow, is one that might well be initiated. Only good will result from his practice.

Where to Grow Corn for Soiling.

Another farmer, who lives on the great, broad prairies of Iowa, writes: "Your plan of growing corn close by the pasture to feed to the stock when grass begins to get scarce is one I should like to adopt, but as it happens, my meadow joins the pasture, and I would be unable to grow a soiling-crop nearer than two hundred yards of it. The idea of lugging two or three big armfuls of green corn that distance every night and morning when a fellow has hardly time to eat rather discourages me. Would you rip up a strip of meadow and plant anyway?" I would. I know what it is to "lug" green corn two or three hundred yards, and I know how inconvenient it is to hitch to a sled and haul it up when one is rushed "from sun to sun." I would turn over a strip of the meadow, cut the surface well with a disk, and drill the corn in rows two or two and one half feet apart. One harrowing just before the corn comes up, and another when it is firmly rooted, will be about all the cultivation it will need, and the quantity of feed that will be produced will open your eyes.

Young Pigs.

A few days ago a young farmer showed me thirty-eight as pretty spring pigs as any one would wish to see. They were the product of five sows, and all were smooth, plump and healthy. "These sows," said he, "run on that two acres of grass, and get all the corn they can eat since the pigs were farrowed. Before they were farrowed I fed them a mixture of bran and ground oats and corn, two, by measure, of bran and oats to one of corn, made just damp with water, and not one lost a pig. I have three movable pens six by seven feet, and when one of the sows was about due I pulled one of these pens under the shed and put her in it. When the pigs were a week old I pulled the pen out and let all run at large." This was a new idea to me. The one large shed was all he had, and these little portable six by eight pens, four feet high, answered the purpose quite as well as expensive partitions. When he was done with them they were set aside out of the way. They are made of six-inch fencing nailed to corner strips two by two inches square. Nearly every farmer would find three or four of them very useful about the pig-pen. FRED GRUNDY.

SEED of red, white and Alsike clover may be stored two years without very serious loss in vitality, provided it is kept in a dry, dark, cool place. Weevils rarely attack such seed. We do not advise, however, holding clover-seed for more than two years. The seed of crimson clover is considerably weaker than that of the other species, and should not be held more than one year.—Rural New-Yorker.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

RUN-DOWN FARMS.—Much has been written in recent years about the profit to be gotten from buying neglected farms and improving them. In all rolling and hilly sections of our country, and especially in New England, unproductive farms may be bought at low prices, and their neglected appearance seems to indicate that their owners have managed badly, and that a thrifty fellow would find such land, at the prevailing low prices asked for it, a profitable investment. The advice is often given that a young man should take hold of such land rather than seek richer land farther west. In some cases the advice may be good, but I want to emphasize the fact that the difference in the selling-price of productive and unproductive land, great as it is, is not usually as great as it should be. Thin farms are made fertile easily on paper, but the beginner who takes hold of a thin and neglected farm rarely realizes how great an investment he must make in the course of years before he gets it in such shape that he can depend upon it for income. Soil-building is slow work unless one has command of enough money to buy outright large supplies of available plant-food, and such a course can usually be pursued safely only by the capitalist who has money to waste upon pet theories. Usually these neglected farms are in sections remote from good markets, and after the best years of a man's life have been spent in making improvements in the soil, the fences and the buildings, the investment is not in a place where good returns may be obtained. There is too much mere sentiment in this matter of abandoned or neglected farm-lands. They are generally lands that would not or should not be cleared under the conditions of the present day. They are not needed, since other land has been brought within reach of the people. Large areas now under cultivation could be vacated with profit to those who can hope only to wring a miserable pittance from them; they should be growing timber and waiting for the day when markets will justify their cultivation.

NATURALLY STRONG SOILS.—There is a limited area of naturally strong soil in most old agricultural sections that is unproductive and low-priced simply because bad management has locked up the plant-food in the soil. Good tillage and a crop of clover, possible with some under-drainage, set the land aright quickly, and it proves a profitable investment; but this kind of land is wholly different from that which is thin, and not to be compared with it. Two farms may have the same productive capacity, and yet one be worth twice as much an acre as the other, regardless of any other differences than that of soil. One has great natural strength, and responds immediately to good treatment; the other must be nursed for years. One has great stores of plant-food in it, and they can be quickly made available; the other never was able to stand heavy cropping. Before buying land one needs to know its history. As a rule, however, it is a mistake to invest in worn-out land unless one has plenty of outside capital. A less number of acres of good land is safer. It can be depended upon, brings in income from the start, and affords less risk of failure than a larger area of thin soil.

INACCURATE STATEMENTS.—In the last two years a great deal has been said about the hundred millions of dollars this country expends for foreign sugar each year, and the usual expression is that we might save just this amount by producing the sugar at home. One writer laments that "we are missing this amount yearly out of our pockets." The impression that these people seek to make is that we would be one hundred million dollars better off if we grew the beets and made the sugar. How can this be? Is our land and labor worth nothing in other directions? We would have been growing beets a score of years ago if other crops had not proven by experiment to be more profitable. Possibly we can now afford to raise the needed beets—that is the question for the Eastern farmer to-day—but only a small part of the value of the total product can be regarded as profit or savings. It is business to produce that which affords profit, and to exchange such products for others we cannot produce with profit.

FIGURING UPON YIELDS.—I have known men to go into the potato-field in the fall, dig and weigh one hill, and from such data estimate that the field had a crop of 400 bushels an acre. It seemed to them only a matter of arithmetic. Having the weight of one hill and the number of hills an acre, 400 bushels an acre were indicated; but lo, the yield would be about 150 bushels. Practical growers know how valueless such an estimate usually proves to be. A leading correspondent of the "Country Gentleman" does some figuring after this fashion: "In all the discussion of the matter of sugar-beet raising which I have listened to or read, there is one point which is not clear, and that is why the yield is so low—that is, in weight of crop. The distances given vary from 18 to 24 inches for distance of rows, with beets from 6 to 9 inches in the row. With the planting 6 by 24 inches, each beet would have one square foot of ground, and the same would be true if we narrowed the rows to 18 inches and increased the distance to 9 inches between beets. This would give a yield of 21¼ tons an acre, provided the beets weighed a pound each. At the same time we are told that it is possible to grow beets that will weigh 1¾ pounds each and still be sweet enough to reach a profitable standard; and this additional weight would give over 15 tons more an acre. In other words, it seems possible by care in getting a perfect stand to grow 20 tons an acre more than the averages now grown around factories in operation. This is a large discrepancy, and would, in itself, amount to a very great increase in the profits." This is a delightful sample of some of the figuring now being done about sugar-beet profits. If every beet were in its place exactly, and if it attained just the maximum weight admissible, the growers around the factories would be getting more than double present yields—that is the proposition of this writer. So, too, the attention of potato-growers might be called to the fact that if they would produce exactly three pounds of potatoes in every hill, and had 10,000 hills an acre, they would never fail to produce 500 bushels an acre. This, too, would increase profits. Such figuring reminds me of the man who had lost a great deal of income in the form of interest because he had not had the principal to loan. In figuring upon profits from beet-growing, the present yields around factories in operation are the only safe basis for a practical man, and they may prove too high for his soil.

DAVID.

MUCH ABOUT HIGH LIVING.

My friend, Mr. Greiner, in his notice of Mrs. Rorer's talk before a Pennsylvania Institute (page 2, issue of March 15th) does not criticize sufficiently strong the writings of certain professional teachers of cookery and authors of cook-books. While my personal acquaintance with Mr. Greiner leads me to appreciate and commend his gallant treatment of these ladies, I feel as if he ought not to have let that stand in the way of a more severe condemnation of their methods.

The trouble lies in the fact that some of these professors of cookery are too willing to adapt their remarks to what they consider the mental caliber of their audience, and while advocating the simple and wholesome products of the soil to an audience of farmers and farmers' wives and daughters will advise the use of some of the vilest compounds known to adulterators of food products when speaking to or writing for an audience they deem possessed of more money—shall I say brains or knowledge of practical cookery? In an editorial capacity I recently had occasion to handle manuscripts from several so-called high-class writers on cooking, and, as is my custom, I turned these manuscripts, after erasing the names of the authors, over to a council of practical housekeepers for opinions; they were returned to me with more or less decided comment in disapproval, but not one remark in favor of them. Being a man, I am not supposed to have much knowledge of cooking, but my knowledge of food is sufficient, and I am sufficiently intelligent to know that some of the compounds recommended by certain teachers of cookery are not only vile but injurious to the human stomach. Further, some of these teachers are in the habit of recommending dishes not at all within the means of the average housekeeper, but they are so highly lauded that our wives are almost unconsciously led into extravagancies they can ill afford; and, after all, the only result is usually a highly seasoned,

strange-tasting concoction, the only merit of which, if it be merit, is its costliness.

Again, certain methods are advocated because some society leader has seen fit to set the seal of his or her approval thereon, as witness the "well-ripened" fowl so highly lauded by some of these teachers. Plainly speaking, such a fowl is one which is kept for two or three weeks after it is killed before being eaten. Other methods quite as distasteful are advocated. I am by no means an advocate of "hog and hominy" as a diet for city folks or farmers, but I know that with fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, poultry and honey, which may be raised on every farm and to a certain extent on small grounds, the rural population, at least, do not need the high-class (?) teachings of certain professional demonstrators of cookery to enable them to enjoy food at once wholesome and inviting; and I would much prefer, for the sake of my stomach, to intrust the preparation of these products for the table to the hands of the average American farm housewife than to the professional teacher of cookery.

GEO. R. KNAPP.

THE CULTURE OF ASPARAGUS.

Asparagus is the earliest and most profitable crop for the market-gardener, but very much neglected by the farmer. Its value as a spring medicinal agent cannot be overestimated, and the relish of a few nice dishes before even early vegetables can be produced ought to be enough to cause every farmer to have a small bed in some convenient out-of-the-way spot. In my home experience I believe a half dozen messes of nicely prepared asparagus have given better results as a spring tonic than so many dollars invested in medicines. Some of my successful market-gardener friends say they can easily harvest five thousand pounds from an acre, and sell it for from five to ten cents a pound. A few years ago I sold the product of a little patch in the dooryard of one of my customers for eighty dollars, and yet he had the ornamental effect left. Asparagus culture, however, like everything else, acquires good management, and poor gardeners will not be successful.

The best plan for getting a good asparagus-bed in one year is to plant two-year-old roots in well-prepared rows three feet apart, with roots eighteen inches in the row. Roots can be obtained from any prominent seedsman for about fifty cents a hundred in quantities, and a little more than that price by the dozen. The Mammoth, Palmetto and Colossal are the leading varieties, of which either will prove satisfactory if properly cultivated. My plan is to plow or spade the soil to the depth of a foot or more, and fill in about four inches of well-rotted manure, setting the roots deep enough so that about three or four inches of soil will cover the crown. This should be done in the fall, and a layer of coarse manure or straw be thrown over the top. In the spring the mulch can be removed and some wood-ashes and salt spaded in the surface to the depth of the root-crowns.

Seeds require three years from planting to make good bearing roots, but where time is no object are cheaper than roots. The seed can be purchased for about fifty cents a pound, and one ounce will sow fifty foot of drill. They should be soaked in tepid water about twenty-four hours, or have two or three applications of boiling water poured over them and off again before planting. Spring is the time for planting, and cultivation is about the same as for any other plants, keeping the soil stirred and weeds down. The roots may be transplanted in the fall of the first year, and some shoots can be cut the following spring, although a full crop need not be expected till the third season. Cut every second or third day, using a sharp knife, and reach below the surface. Boil for awhile after washing, and cut into half-inch pieces, add milk and butter, and the dish is fit for a king.

The general asparagus market is never overstocked, and there is always a demand for crisp, well-washed and neatly bunched shoots. Small, woody stems will not sell for any price, and dirty, poorly bunched stalks are not wanted, even though the quality may be excellent. We usually cut in the morning, wash in a tub partly filled with pure water, and tie with new white twine in bunches of two pounds or more. The stems should be arranged neatly, and the bunch be tied so that it will look enticing to the prospective customer. If any of the details are neglected or forgotten the sale will be affected thereby. In the vicinity of a market city asparagus thus grown

and prepared will yield from two to five hundred dollars an acre every year. Local conditions may cause exceptions in some communities, but I am writing a general article, applicable in a general way to localities where there is a demand for asparagus.

JOEL SHOMAKER.

SOME EDIBLE WEEDS.

One of the most popular subjects with the agricultural writer is weeds. We are told their common and scientific names, how long they live, when they produce seed and how they distribute it, where they grow and what crops are injured by them, how to kill them and, by the philosophical writers, the lessons to be learned from them. All good in its way. But as yet we have heard practically nothing of their uses. It is admitted that they have uses, but since they are generally considered nuisances no one takes the trouble to find out the best sides of their natures. Yet some of the worst weed pests of the garden are not merely harmless, but when properly treated are really excellent food, some, in fact, having been used as vegetables for centuries.

Perhaps the oldest of these is our common garden purslane, or, as it is popularly known, "pusley," which is a native of India. It was cultivated for food centuries before cabbages and celery and many more of our popular vegetables were developed, and was honored with a Sanskrit name. It was carried to Europe, where it has been used as a salad and pot-herb for hundreds of years. In America it is "only a weed," being used, if used at all, as a hog-food. But as a pot-herb it is very good, being highly relished by those that like vegetables of a slightly acid taste.

Pokeweed, a native of the United States, is often found in the Southern markets, where it is sold in the spring under the name of "sprouts." The perennial beet-shaped root contains a deadly poison which is used in medicine, and the berries, though said to be poisonous, are eaten by birds, especially by robins. Since the bird's flesh is stained by the purple berries, some one declared that the risk would be run in eating it. The robins were then allowed to feed in peace, and were not used for food. The stout asparagus-like stems which push out of the ground in early spring are cut when two to four inches long, and boiled. Boiling dispels any of the poison that may be contained in them. No portion of the root should accompany the stems to the pot, because of the bitter taste that the roots impart. These sprouts are cooked like asparagus, and served upon toast with a drawn-butter dressing or milk gravy.

Among my earliest weed acquaintances is goosefoot, or lamb's-quarters, sometimes called pigweed. This is a bluish-green, mealy coated plant, about three feet tall when fully grown. It is perhaps the most common of our annual weeds. In my father's family it took the place of spinach, to which we all thought it superior, not only because of its agreeable taste, but on account of its freedom from sand, an item of no small importance. When not more than six or eight inches tall it is at its best. The leaves and soft young stems are cut or broken off and washed. Beyond this it needs practically no other preparation. It should be cooked and served the same as spinach, with salt, pepper and butter.

The marsh-marigold, or cowslip, as it is erroneously called, is a native of America, and common in swamps and wet meadows. It is gathered before it comes into flower and used as a pot-herb, for which purpose it is highly esteemed by those who use it. It is sure to be free from all sand and earth from the nature of the place it grows, and will thus commend itself to the housewife because it will need less washing.

Pot-herbs should be gathered while the plant is young, for at that time it is richer in nutritious materials than in its later stages of growth. The quantity of proteid matter in them is at that time large, the plant being then exercised in building up its various parts. Hence its use at this stage insures a large quantity of valuable food for the human body. In gathering, only the soft and growing parts should be selected, since those more mature are not only more woody and indigestible, but may contain harmful substances. The boiling should last from only a few minutes to several hours, according to the nature of the plant, watery ones requiring little time and more solid ones a good deal. Should there be a bitter or a sour principle in the plant, changes of the water or long boiling will get rid of it.

M. G. KAINS.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

SELLING STRAWBERRIES.—The strawberry season is once more with us. In my estimation the strawberry is the most glorious of all fruits, and why a single rural home should be without a full supply of them (enough to have them on the table three times a day during the entire strawberry season, and at least once a week during the winter) is hard for me to understand. This fruit is easily grown when you know how and act on your knowledge. Those who grow strawberries for sale, however, do not find quite so easy sailing. There is no use raising berries and then selling them for less than cost of growing. I find large berries freshly gathered and carefully placed in packages, then brought to market while still "standing up" well, will also sell well, and at paying prices even when the ordinary fruit is in oversupply, as is now frequently the case. In fact, I wonder how so many of these poor apologies for berries can be disposed of. I myself would not accept the berries which constitute the bulk of the stock on the market as a gift. Nothing would tempt me to eat the wilted and dusty stuff usually found on market-stands. I want mine fresh from the patch, and I believe that twice the quantity of berries could be sold if they were put on the market in the same shape that they come from the vines. This is why the idea of wrapping berry-boxes with waxed or parchment paper appeals so strongly to my fancy.

WRAPPING FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.—The prepared paper is neatly folded around the well-filled berry-box, and will keep out all dust and dirt, giving the fruit, on opening the package, a very neat and fresh appearance. Mr. T. C. Kevitt, who has marketed strawberries thus put up for some years, says that when customers have become used to this wrapped box, they appreciate its advantages, and are ready to pay extra prices for it. I cannot doubt this statement. Of course, the idea of wrapping fruits and vegetables for market is not new. Fancy fruits from California and the South are always wrapped in tissue-paper. So are tomatoes. Some of our Eastern growers wrap pears in waxed paper, and find it pays. Ask Ellwanger and Barry, for instance, about the prices they obtain for their Anjou pears thus wrapped. I know that one of my Canadian friends, who grows tomatoes for the English markets, picks them when scarcely colored, and ships them wrapped in tissue-paper, and he says it pays him well. I believe that all our choicer fruits, even apples, should be wrapped and put on sale in rather small packages.

THE BUSH LIMAS.—I had fully made up my mind to throw all large bush Limas overboard, and for the present at least rely entirely upon the pole varieties. I cannot get good crops from the former. I have given them the best of care and the richest soil, and yet my plants remain dwarfish, and bear only sparingly. Possibly they act differently on sandier soils. The pole Limas, on the other hand, begin to bear about as early as the bush Limas, and they continue in bearing for the rest of the season, stopping only when frost stops them. I like Extra Early Jersey and King of the Garden. Henderson's Bush Lima, or Sieva, with its smaller pods and small beans, however, is easy to raise and bears full crops, and I would grow it if I did not prefer the large sorts. Henry A. Dreer introduces this year a new bush Lima under the name, "New Wonder Bush Lima," and claims for it earliness, dwarfness, flavor and heavy cropping qualities. He says: "We made a planting on June 29th in our experiment grounds, and on August 17th, just seven weeks from the day of planting, we took the first pod with mature beans from the plant." I suppose that this is a variety of the Sieva type, and probably not excessively valuable for my purposes on that account. Will try it, however. It takes warm soil to sprout any of the Lima beans, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that Limas, once above ground, are not easily injured by a late frost. They are at least half hardy.

KALE OR GERMAN GREENS.—Recently we have had a number of messes of Kale greens. These are the young sprouts (this year's growth) cut off the plants of Kale or

German greens that were raised from seed last summer and wintered over in the field. The plants are quite hardy, and usually come through the winter all right. Just as soon as the ground thaws out in spring new growth begins, and these sprouts are very tender and fine. They are boiled in salted water, then allowed to cool, and served with vinegar, etc., as a salad. We find this dish very palatable and quite a treat after a long winter without fresh vegetables. If people generally knew how easily this vegetable is raised, and how good it is, I believe that we would find it in ten gardens where we now find it in one. Be sure to include a package of it in your seed order. We sow seed in July, right where we want the plant to grow and remain during the winter, exactly in the same way as we raise most of our late cabbage, making the rows three feet apart, but leaving the plants a little closer in the rows than late cabbages are usually planted. When the plants have some size, leave but one in a place, and cultivate same as cabbage. The crop has almost no enemy, if we except rabbits.

THE CABBAGE-ROT.—Mrs. J. S. C., of Greenville, N. C., asks me how to prevent what people in that section call rotten or hollow stalk in cabbages. "The lower leaves begin to look tough and yellow, and then drop off one by one until the plant is dead. If the stalks are broken you see a dark streak right down the center, even when the plants first begin to show signs of the disease. Sometimes cabbages right side by side with the affected ones seem to be entirely free from the disease." We grow cabbages more largely than any other vegetable (comparatively), but we seldom find any disease on them except damping off in the seed-bed, and even this we can avoid by proper treatment, especially the avoidance of overwatering. Most likely the disease about which our correspondent complains is the black-rot of the cabbage. This disease is fully treated in Farmers' Bulletin No. 68, just issued from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and anybody who asks for it can have a copy free. The bulletin is written by Prof. Erwin F. Smith, of the Division of Vegetable Physiology and Pathology, who says about it: "This disease may appear in the plant at any stage of growth, and is characterized by the following symptoms: Dwarfing, or one-sided growth of the heads, or, if the disease is very severe and has begun early in the season, by the entire absence of the heads, and in extreme cases by the death of the plant. . . . If the stumps of affected plants are broken or cut across, a brown or black ring will be observed, corresponding to the wobby part of the stem, this being the part of the stem especially subject to the disease. In bad cases this blackening may be easily traced upward into the center of the head, and is generally worse on one side. In the leaves the symptoms usually begin at the margins, and consist in yellowing all the affected parts except the veins, which become decidedly brown or black. . . . From the edges of the leaf the progress of the disease is inward and downward toward the stem. . . . Leaves attacked in this manner fall off prematurely, one after another, leaving in bad cases a more or less elongated stem covered with leaf-scars and crowned with a tuft of small leaves. If the disease has entered the stem only on one side, that side is dwarfed and the head becomes one-sided." Of course, the cause of this trouble is a fungus, and the treatment must be of a preventive character. In the first place, the plants should be grown or set only in soil that is as yet free from infection; in other words, land on which the disease has not before appeared. Use no stable manure that by any possibility may be infected with the rot. It is very likely that this rot fungus, like the fungus of the potato-scab, can be transmitted to a field in manure coming from animals that had been fed on rot-infected cabbages or other plants. The use of chemical manures is to be preferred in many cases, and safe. Destroy all weeds known to harbor the disease, especially the wild mustard. Keep the cabbages as free as possible from all insect enemies, as these are liable to carry the disease from plant to plant. Among such enemies the cabbage-butterfly and the harlequin bug are most to be feared. Do not turn animals into diseased fields; they may carry the infection to new and clean fields. Remove badly affected plants from the field as fast as they appear. In early stages

of the disease go over the fields systematically about every ten days, and break off and remove all the affected leaves. Burn all contaminated refuse or plants. Finally store cabbages from infected field only when you cannot sell them or otherwise dispose of them in the fall. That is about all any one can do to keep the disease in check after it has once made its appearance.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS. CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

THINNING FRUITS.

The past season has emphasized the necessity of reducing the number of specimens of fruit on heavily loaded trees in order to save the strength of the tree and improve the size and quality of the fruit. With the apple crop this necessity is more marked than with any other fruit. Nearly all of our fruit-trees possess the characteristic of producing one year so large a crop that they cannot mature a crop the next season, requiring sometimes several years to recover from the exhaustion. The effect of thinning is shown in the following trials:

No. 1. Two full-sized Gravensteins of uniform vigor and productiveness were selected. One was thinned July 1st, the other being reserved for a check. The fruit set in great abundance, and at the time of thinning the two trees appeared equally productive. It should be said that if the tree had been thinned at least two weeks earlier, better results might have followed. As the fruit approached maturity a decided difference was noted in favor of the thinned tree, but unfortunately for the experiment, a large per cent of the fruit dropped prematurely, as many Gravensteins did in other sections of the state. The results therefore were far from satisfactory; nevertheless, they indicate what may be expected when conditions are more favorable.

GRAVENSTEIN.	Firsts.....	Seconds.....	Wind-falls.....	Market Value.....	Gain.....
Thinned Tree.....	bu. 7	bu. 1	bu. 9 1/2	\$4 45	\$2 33
Check.....	2 1/2	2 1/2	10 1/4	2 12	
Cost of Thinning.....					48
					\$1 85

Deducting from this 48 cents, the actual cost of thinning, we have a net gain of \$1.85.

No. 2. Two trees of the Russian apple Tetofsky were selected, one being thinned July 1st, the other remaining for comparison. Both were of equal size and productiveness. At the date of ripening, July 29th, a remarkable difference in the size and beauty of the fruit was noticeable. There was a gain of \$1.20 in value of the apples sold from the thinned tree, due to thinning. The thinning cost 35 cents, so the net gain from thinning was 85 cents on one tree.

The unusually large per cent of windfalls may be attributed to the peculiar distribution of the fruit in this variety. The apples have very short stems and are borne in clusters of from three to eight, so that, as growth increases, a large number are crowded off, and even those remaining have not sufficient room for full development. It is evident that thinning is of special advantage to this variety, the more so since it gives promise of becoming a valuable market apple, being of excellent quality.

No. 3. A tree each of Genii and Victoria plums was divided into approximately equal halves, one half of each being thinned July 1st, the other remaining as a check. The fruit of the Genii ripened and was picked August 22d; the Victoria, August 24th.

The results are shown in the following table:

VARIETY.	Marketable Plums.....	Value.....	Gain.....	Per cent Fruit Rotted.....
	qts.			
Genii—Thinned.....	9	\$0.81	\$0.32	28
Genii—Check.....	5 1/2	.49		42
Victoria—Thinned.....	16	1.44	.59	20
Victoria—Check.....	9 1/2	.85	.91	46
Cost of thinning two half trees.....			.30	
			.61	

Allowing 12 cents for thinning the Genii and 18 cents for the Victoria we have a net gain of 20 and 41 cents respectively for each half tree.

A distinct advantage gained by thinning is the appreciable decrease in the ravages of fungous diseases, and to a small extent, of insect pests. This is especially noticeable in the case of Monilia, or brown fruit-rot, which often ruins the peach or plum crop in wet seasons, while the specimens of fruit attacked by the curculio were largely removed in thinning. The per cent of fruit affected with Monilia was determined by count at time of picking, and may therefore be taken as a fair estimate of the actual results.—Bulletin 44, Massachusetts Agricultural College.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Sudduth Pear.—S. A. W., Prophetstown, Ill. The Sudduth pear is altogether too new to fruit-growers for its qualities to be known. It is probable, as is generally the case with novelties; that much more is claimed for it than can be proven. It has not yet been carefully tested, and you should know that because the original tree does well it does not necessarily follow that scions from it will do well when grafted and planted in widely different soils.

Cutting Off Budded Peach Stock.—W. H. M., Conneaut, Ohio. Budded peaches should be cut off as soon as the buds commence to swell; cut them about three inches above the bud. Look them over after the buds start, and rub off all but the inserted bud. They should be dug and set out next spring, April, 1899; by that time the inserted buds will have grown to nice little trees.

Orchard Not Bearing.—G. S., Port Gibson, N. Y. It is sometimes unexplainable why an orchard does not bear, while at other times it may be very clear. A few varieties require pollen from other kinds, or they will not set fruit, although they may flower profusely. Sometimes trees do not bear when growing too fast, or when there is too much nitrogen in the soil. In order to answer your question intelligently, I would like to know the name of the variety or varieties of apples in your orchard, whether they flower now or have blossomed, and how much growth they make each year.

Grafting Apple-trees and Pear Sprouts—Pear-tree Not Bearing.—J. W. R., Ayersville, Ohio. It is quite a severe shock to a tree to cut it off at the top of the ground, and scions inserted in such stocks often fail to grow, especially late in the season. If necessary to cut them so severely, would prefer to do the work rather earlier in the season than it is usually done. If a few small branches can be left on the trunk below the graft the union is much more certain. In the case of small stock, one to two feet high, I always prefer to graft just below the ground, so the union will come below the surface. While I use a whip-graft union on small seedlings, on account of its being easy to make, yet I think a common cleft-graft just as certain to be successful. I think you will be more certain of success if you had these trees, instead of grafting them. But why is it necessary to work these seedlings near the ground? Why not top-graft them if they are nice seedlings, and you know how to succeed this way? They ought to make good trees when grown in this way. The above applies equally to pear scions. If very small I should bud them.—I rather think your pear-tree is growing too fast, but even this would hardly account for sixteen years' growth without fruit. Since it is doing nothing for you there is very little risk in experimenting with it, and I should try the following: I would dig a trench entirely around the tree, and three feet deep, and cut off every root at three feet from the tree, and would cut the top-roots at three feet in depth in the ground. Do this at any time before growth starts this spring. Such a root-pruning, while it does not seriously injure the tree, will check it so that it will probably form fruit-buds this year.

Blood

IS LIFE

Pure Blood

IS HEALTH

Without blood circulating through your veins you could not live. Without pure blood you cannot be well. The healthy action of every organ depends upon the purity and richness of the blood by which it is nourished and sustained. If you have salt rheum, scrofula sores, pimples, boils or any kind of humor, your blood is not pure. If you take Hood's Sarsaparilla it will make your blood pure and promptly relieve all these troubles. In the spring the blood is loaded with impurities. Hence, all those unsightly eruptions, that languor and depression, and the danger of serious illness. Hood's Sarsaparilla is needed to purify, enrich and vitalize the blood and protect and fortify the system. Remember

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Is America's Greatest Medicine. Sold by all druggists. \$1; six for \$5. Get only Hood's.

Hood's Pills are the only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Our Farm.

RURAL NOTES.

ROAD ORNAMENTATION.—More attention is being paid recently to the question of road ornamentation. The fact is that our streets should present the aspects of public parks, extending everywhere about the country. Instead of throwing our brush and rubbish there, we should plant our best shrubs and flowers. In many cases nature provides for this aspect of affairs with brooks and wild flowers. These should be preserved in their natural beauty. We know a few towns where the custom is well established of extending lawns down to the driveway. This custom adds not only to the pleasure of the traveler, but to the culture and civilization of the common teamsters. Some of the European countries have carried this custom much farther than Americans. If a man wishes to make his place attractive for any purpose, even for sale, he should make the front of it charming to the eye.

APPLE-SCAB.—Among the diseases of apple-trees, altogether too little is said about that form of scab which attacks a few varieties, blistering and eating into the bark to the total ruin of the trees. As a rule with me, the scab is not a serious disease, but I have one variety of sweet apple of the highest quality which rarely escapes most serious attacks. The remedy is kerosene emulsion, made very strong, and rubbed in thoroughly three or four times a year. I should also spray such trees several times with Bordeaux mixture. It seems to be a fact that these fungus enemies have their favorite trees, as the aphides and the motbs have their favorite fruits. The orchardist should keep kerosene emulsion always on hand.

GRAPES.—A good feature, of nurserymen's catalogues for 1898 is the fact that they are eliminating varieties that are worthless. Yet occasionally we see advertised and highly recommended, fruits which we know to be total failures. A list of grapes lies before me, which says: "The following may in time take the place of our present favorites, Ulster Prolific, Jessica, Mary and others." The same note includes a strong recommendation of Empire State. Nothing is more certain than that Empire State is unfit for general cultivation. It shrivels as soon as ripe, and drops from the bunch; nor is the flavor such as to rank it among the best grapes. Ulster Prolific is a good grape, but unprofitable. Jessica is one of the most worthless affairs ever offered to the public. The grape is small and over half seed. We have enough excellent grapes thoroughly tried and proved worthy of general culture. The inferior sorts should be promptly excluded and the list trimmed down to about twenty sorts. Among eighty varieties that I have on trial I consider Jessica about the poorest. Nor are any of those named new varieties. They have been on the market for fifteen years. I should like to call your attention to one of the grapes which has been badly neglected, but that does not deserve to be overlooked; I mean the August Giant. I have found this grape to be without a rival in the way of rampant growing, to cover barns, outhouses and verandas. The fruit is also excellent, although not ripening in August, nor earlier than the latter part of September. It is, in fact, a better grape than Concord, and a heavy cropper.

BROAD TIRES.—The use of broad tires on our wagons is growing into general favor, but the wagon is thereby rendered about one hundred pounds heavier than with narrow tires. Are we losing in one direction what we gain in another? The Missouri experiment station has been initiating a series of tests to answer this question. They have tried different tires on all sorts of roads, as well as on pasture, stubble and plowed fields. The result is that broad tires pull materially lighter on all roads, except where the mud is very deep and sticky. The test on our pastures and plowed lands is peculiarly favorable to the broad tire. What we really want of the broad tire is to enable us to get from the field across outlots to the depot or

storage-house, probably not far distant from the barn. The conclusion arrived at is that the increased weight necessitated by the broad tire is not an item of serious importance in the average of farm haulage.

HOME SURROUNDINGS.—When shall we see our farmers learn the law of what we sometimes call "averages;" that is, making their homes equally beautiful, neat and attractive on all sides? Nothing is more absurd in the country than the habit of creating a citified lawn in front, over which the lawn-mower is incessantly run, while in the rear of the house and about the barn there is utter neglect of tidiness. Pick up the brush; pile up the stones; let the walks and drives go around the barn as well as the house, so that you will be glad to have visitors look over the whole place and expect that they will enjoy it as much as they do your street frontage. There should not be an unsightly or unpleasant feature about the homestead, even if it includes fifty acres. The woodlot, the glen, the brookside, the orchards should all be tidy and cheerful. Let it be understood that this is a matter which enters into family culture, and upon which depends the refinement of your children.

NEW ORNAMENTAL VINE.—A remarkably fine new vine is now offered for sale, which is adapted to the covering of rocks, barns, porches and arbors. It is a native plant, growing wild in Montana, and is entirely hardy. No other name is given to it than the Mountain Beauty. It grows as rapidly and clings as readily as the Ampelopsis veitchii. The flowers are borne in great profusion, and its blossoms very early after being planted. The flowers are of a rich carmine, carried in long bunches. I believe that this vine furnishes us the very best possible climber to cover our country churches. The growth is even and uniform, making a mat of dark green foliage. When we combine the fact of its entire hardiness, its superb flowers and its rich foliage, we get that which can hardly have a rival.

FRUIT AS FOOD.—Dr. Smith Baker, whose reputation is national, has published an essay on "Fruit for Food." In this he takes the ground that we are not using nearly enough fruit in proportion to meats and cereals. He would have us break our habit of eating what we call a square meal, and satisfy ourselves with a good relish of three or four apples and pears. The doctor tells us that the only drawback to raw fruit as a food is the tendency to eat it without proper deglutition and chewing. We believe that the doctor is about right. A breakfast of fruit would probably cure us of a good many of our chronic ailments. Farmers should eat as well as make money out of fruit.

RURAL ART SOCIETIES.—The two oldest rural art societies are those of Clinton, Conn., and Clinton, New York. The society at Clinton, New York, will hold its forty-second anniversary in May, 1898. These anniversaries have become occasions for discussing questions of national importance to horticulture. Some of the topics at the regular meetings during the winters of '97-'98 have been Fruit for Food; The Diseases of Trees; Best Trees for Street Planting; Our Town Schools and Our Homes; The German Home as Compared with the American Home; What Fruits and Vegetables the Iroquois Grew, and Our Native Birds and Their Services to Us. These topics have been discussed by such notable horticulturists as Prof. Edward North, of Hamilton college; Hon. William Cary Sanger, and other men of high repute, but also by the members of the society less known by the public. The society has served admirably the purpose of planting and ornamenting the streets, improving rural architecture and creating a public sentiment for beautiful homes.

THE FARM SHOP.—One of the most important subjects for farmers to consider is the widening out of farm life. In the early part of the century the farmer not only tilled the soil, but made his own soap and candles and cloth; in fact, did nearly all those things which are now done for him by factories. Taking away these industries has narrowed the schedule of

farm-work, so that it is far less interesting, besides increasing the expenses of the farmer. Above all, every farm should have its farm shop. This shop should be furnished with lathes and a full kit of tools. Here nearly all the repairs of the farm should be carried on, and the winter months in this way be made quite as profitable as the summer months. Such a shop in many cases could be furnished with water-power, or possibly steam-power. We shall very soon be able to secure electric power. I am sure that my own shop saves me one hundred dollars a year. Not the least important office of such a shop is that it develops the mechanical skill, which is probably strong in some of the boys or girls of the household. While we are talking of improving stock, very little is heard of the necessity of improving human stock. I have heard it said lately that our farmer boys are less interesting and less capable than those of former generations. It certainly is a fact that our farmers' clubs are made up mostly of old men. The more capable boys have been drawn off to city life. A reaction will set in only when education in our rural schools is made to cover those studies that make land culture interesting, and when farm life is made wider and more attractive, by such means as we have suggested; that is, by shops and museums. The farm museum should include the results of the practical study of botany, entomology, geology and whatever else can be studied under foot and over head. Add to your library a room for the purpose suggested.

E. P. POWELL.

PURER AND CLEANER BUTTER.

Major Alvord, chief of the Dairying Division of the Department, says that dairymen and butter-makers have scored a decided triumph in Pennsylvania. The pure-food laws of that state are well to the front in all directions. One of the worst features of the modern butter trade has been the putting on the market of old, rancid, unsalable butter, worked over, sterilized and mixed with a little fresh cream, as fresh butter. It analyzes well and is difficult of detection, and is giving more trouble than oleomargarine. Under the new Pennsylvania law it is required to be labeled "Renovated Butter," which designates it at exactly what it is.

In all matters of prosecution for violation of the pure-food laws—the filled-cheese law and the oleomargarine law—the Treasury Department exercises exclusive jurisdiction, and while Treasury officials do effective work, they do it rather from the standpoint of obtaining revenue rather than in the interests of honest products and protection to the consumer. This seems to be something of a mistake, if the intent as well as the letter of the law is to be carried out. If the Treasury officials can detect a case of fraud and collect a fine, they are quite willing to have the offender continue his practices, which will enable them to pounce upon him again. This brings revenue to the government, but meantime the consumer continues eating adulterated and bogus products. It can be stated, however, that the two departments work very harmoniously together, and that the suggestions of the Secretary of Agriculture are received and acted upon in good part by the Treasury officials.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM NEW MEXICO.—The Pecos Valley, or "The Sugar-bowl of the Southwest," is situated in the southeastern part of New Mexico. From the two years' experience the farmers have had here in the sugar-beet growing we cannot speak encouragingly of the industry. From three to six tons is about the average yield, although some have had yields of eight and nine tons an acre. The price paid last year was \$4 for all beets analyzing 12 per cent of sugar and 80 per cent purity. The average cost of production is from \$25 to \$30 an acre. Corn and alfalfa do fairly well, but we have only our local markets, and the supply is greater than the demand. Peaches were all killed with the late frosts; apples do fairly well near Roswell, about eighty miles from here in the northern part of the valley. Apple orchards in this the southern part have not yet come into bearing. The stock business is promising. The vast plains east of the Pecos river are covered with large herds of cattle, horses and sheep. The mountains west afford a great range on which there are thousands of Angora goats.

C. L. S.

Otis, Eddy county, N. M.

A good indication of the success of the farmer can be had from the condition of his buildings and out-houses. It is much cheaper to keep them in repair than to let them go to waste.

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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammondon, New Jersey.

CAUSES OF ROUP.

WHEN a bird has catarrh, scrofula, heart-disease, consumption or diphtheria, it is ascribed to roup. The disease so prevalent and known as roup, is at first catarrh, then pneumonia, and then consumption, according to the different stages. Tuberculous diseases, however, may affect the bones, bowels and throat, as well as the lungs. An English experimenter asserts that he has proved that tuberculosis in fowls is entirely distinct from that which affects the human family and the mammalian animals, and that it is the result of filthy and unhealthy surroundings being contagious from fowl to fowl, even appearing when new flocks are put into yards where it had previously been, if the yards were not thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before the fowls were put in. It has been claimed that fowls cannot contract it from the human race or from animals, as some experiments made by feeding them for three months on infective tuberculous matter from consumptive human patients and from tuberculous horses and cows indicated. Systematic cleansing and disinfecting of poultry-yards, the removal of excrement, and feeding on clean surfaces, with care in the selection of birds from healthy situations, are means which give an amount of protection from incursion and spread of the disease, while isolation of suspected animals, or better, killing out and disinfection may be advisable when the disease is once established.

HOW TO BEGIN RIGHT.

Fowls are more prolific than cattle, and reach maturity in a year, an advantage that should be appreciated, which enables the poultryman to arrive at a paying basis sooner than by any other method. When one has but a small capital, therefore, the desire to make a profit from poultry in a year should not be entertained. A small investment will lead to the establishment of an industry that will give satisfactory results in a few years if the poultryman has the patience to wait until he can get established by the increase of his flock rather than by capital. Every additional fowl to the flock gained by increase is so much gain of capital, and what cannot be accomplished at once may be done in a longer time. The beginner who desires to enter the poultry business must therefore start at it with a view of building himself up, and he must not expect any returns until he has reached a point at which he can derive a sufficient profit to afford him a comfortable living. Many who have gone into the poultry business and made no profit the first year ceased operations, when in fact they had undergone a year's experience and should have continued. The object should be to take plenty of time, get ready, and increase only to the extent of the capital.

MANAGING THE BROODS.

Chicks that run with the hen in the spring have exercise, and they do not eat too much at once, as happens when confined in winter. It is better to feed millet-seed scattered in litter, and compel them to scratch and gradually secure their food, than to fill them at once. It is lack of exercise that causes leg weakness and other difficulties. Turning out the chicks from a warm brooder to a cold room in winter is like taking them from the hens and exposing them in a cold room without protection or the warmth of the feathers of their dams. If each reader would keep in view the fact that young chicks are very tender there would be more success with them.

LEGHORNS AS SITTERS.

The non-sitting breeds will sit if they are kept in confinement and gotten into a fat condition. The reason they seldom sit is that they are active foragers and take constant exercise. The Leghorn rarely sits, but when a hen of that breed determines to hatch a brood she will be as persistent as a Cochin and makes an excellent mother, willingly sacrificing herself in defense of her young, equaling the Game hen in that respect, and attacking dogs, cats, and even hogs.

SCABBY LEGS.

Unless a flock of fowls is composed of healthy and beautiful birds much of the pleasure and interest taken in caring for them will be lost. It is not unusual to find flocks with the majority of the birds having scabby legs, and yet this unsightly nuisance can be prevented and also removed. Those who have had experience with scabby legs know that the shanks have the appearance of being incrustated with ground oyster-shells, and frequently become so thick as to interfere with locomotion. It is due to the work of a minute parasite, which daily adds to the deposit on the shanks. This parasite is too small to be seen with the unaided eye, and millions of them assist in the work. Now, grease is fatal to them. Take the affected bird, wash the leg with soap and water, then scrape away as much of the deposit as possible, wash again, wipe dry and apply a mixture of sulphur and lard. Do this twice a week, and in a month the legs will be clean. Keep the legs clean and the fowl will always have a neat appearance and be better able to battle with lice.

PURE BREEDS FOR THE FARM.

The farmer who buys a trio of birds pays more than their value for them when he is particular about "points." It is true that the points are necessary, as they preserve the breeds, and no farmer should purchase a Plymouth Rock possessing feathered legs or a rose-comb, for such birds would not be pure, but he should not pay five dollars for a bird because its comb had five points instead of six, provided the bird was true to its breed. What the farmer should do is to insist on having a strong and vigorous bird when he buys one, giving full attention to all the points that insure purity, and overlook any trivial defects that may appear important in the show-room, but which may not injure the bird for breeding purposes. Further, the farmer should not write the breeder to send him a bird that is wanted for breeding, receiving it at a low cost, and then condemn the breeder because the bird is not one that will win in a show-room.

SELECTING CHICKS FOR NEXT YEAR.

Because you hatch a large number of young pullets is no reason why you should keep all of them. It is correct to hatch as many as possible, as it permits of better opportunities for securing more good ones, but it is usually the temptation not to part with any, the consequence being that the poultry-house becomes crowded as the pullets reach maturity. Observe them from the start, and note those that are hearty and strong. Select pullets that are uniform in color and size, and sell the remainder as soon as it can be done, so as to give those retained more attention and care.

GRADING UP THE FLOCKS.

When an attempt is made to grade the flock up to a higher standard such work should be done by judicious selection of pure-bred males. It is better to use pure-bred males and females, but farmers prefer to procure males and cross on their hens. If farmers will use the best males, however, crossing would not be objectionable, but they will exchange males with some neighbor, or accept as pure-bred fowls some that are but grades, which can effect no improvement. The best to be had is not too good when the stock is to be improved.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

CROP-BOUND.—In your issue of March 1st I noticed an article on "Crop-bound in Poultry." I cannot agree with you when you say that there is no remedy except to open the crop. I have had six years' experience with poultry. When I have a case of crop-bound I take a small oil-can, put in one teaspoonful of soda, fill it with warm water and then force it down the throat of the fowl. Knead the crop for half a minute, then take the fowl by the feet, let the head hang down, and with the hand work the crop toward the mouth. This will relieve the crop in one minute. K. Allegany, N. Y.

CLEANING A POULTRY-HOUSE.—I read many suggestions about keeping the hen-house clean, but as the roosts are usually placed, it is not an easy matter. In both my hen-houses I have the roosts placed over an inclined plane made of matched boards, the upper part of the plane being about three feet from the ground and extending a foot out from the first roost. At the lower part is a trap in the side of the house the length of the plane, a wide

board hung on hinges, a hook to hang it when open, and buttoned down when closed. The roosts are arranged horizontally. Every morning the droppings are pushed down to the lower end and fresh earth or dust thrown over, and as often as convenient they can be removed at the trap. Under the plane grain is scattered, and there is always plenty of dust, which occasionally is removed. We have been here over eighteen years and have never seen a mite. M. B. K. Oskaloosa, Kan.

FEEDING YOUNG CHICKS.—Chickens, whether hatched in the incubator or under a hen should not be fed anything until from twenty-four to thirty-six hours old. Nature has provided for their sustenance for that time in the yolk of the egg, which is absorbed just before the chicken leaves the shell. Never feed raw corn-meal to young chickens, and feed no sloppy food. If you are only raising a few chickens it pays to give them proper food and care. I have had the best success with chickens since I began to feed them a bread made as follows: Take two parts wheat bran, one part corn-meal, and one part middlings. Make it into a stiff dough with water, or better, skim-milk; put it into the oven, and bake it until it will crumble and not be sticky. Give the chickens plenty of gravel and coarse sand, and feed them on this bread, giving them at one time only as much as they will eat up clean. Occasionally, instead of the middlings I use one part oatmeal. After the chickens are a week old I began giving them dry oatmeal for their supper, and later I feed them entirely on oatmeal and wheat; then, after they are several weeks old, I give them cracked corn and ground meat and bone in reasonable quantities, which should be mixed with their other food, especially if they are confined in a yard where they cannot forage for themselves and get bugs and worms. In this case they should also be given green food—chopped lettuce, onions, grass, etc. If a dish of charcoal, broken fine, is kept where they can have access to it, they will eat it, and it is good for them. Of course, plenty of fresh water must be kept where they can get it, but in some sort of a fountain that they cannot get into and foul the water, besides wetting themselves. I have seen millet-seed highly recommended as food for young chicks, but I have never tried it myself. From my own experience I know that chickens fed as I have suggested and kept dry and warm will not die from indigestion or have the gapes, as so many young chicks do, but they will grow and thrive remarkably. M. Mc.

A LADY'S MANAGEMENT.—Some things have been of use to me in raising chickens, and may help others. There is no use to go with an empty pocket when there is both pleasure and profit in raising chickens. I will not say poultry, as that would take in ducks, geese and turkeys. I have tried all of them, and on small farms; in regard to my neighbors they can raise no turkeys. I see a correspondent in your paper says a turkey will roost where it feeds at night. Ducks I have no time to follow when they go bug-hunting, but I am at home with the chickens and find it pays to confine myself to the numbers that can give extra care. They are like everything else—give returns in proportion to what they get, and the greater variety they get the better. For laying hens, on cold mornings, wet the the soft feed with red-pepper tea, and mix in refuse meat and grease. Thick milk is a good summer feed for eggs; I am often told by the buyers that I know how to fatten young chickens. Now, the secret is in having plenty of gravel and charcoal where they can get it to assist digestion, as it is not what they eat that makes them fat, but what they digest. Always pen them up a week before selling; they will gain in pounds enough to pay for the trouble. The rats took almost all of my chicks last spring before I learned to sprinkle lime around the entrance to each coop each year; then the rats took no more and the lime acts as a purifier. I took the lime in an old bucket and a small shovel and the work was soon done. My remedy for cholera is a sure cure; I have used it for fifteen years, and if persisted in you will be satisfied. It is something every one always has on hand and not a cent to pay. It is shelled corn boiled in ashes with what matter it will soak up; use plenty of ashes, pen up the sick, and give nothing else but water to all of the flock. It will act as a preventive and keep them all in health. I like a box for a nest, and before I put fresh straw in I set fire to the old straw, and when it gets to burning turn the box over the burning straw and leave it until it is almost on fire and every mite is dead. As it is the habit of the chickens to go to bed early, we should feed them early. I am doctoring a hen for roup, and she is getting better. I have bathed her head in coal-oil three times in two days; the swelling is going down and she can now see, which she could not do when I put her up. Greenup, Ill. MRS. M. S. L.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Hens Eating Eggs.—G. W. P., writes: "What is the best thing to cure hens from eating eggs? We have tried a mixture of pepper and ammonia, mixed in the eggs, but they still eat them."

REPLY:—The best plan is to have a nest

about ten inches cube, eight inches from the ground, and so arranged that the hens must walk in from the front in order to lay. They cannot then easily eat the eggs.

Disease of Fowls.—M. A. M., writes: "What is the matter with my chickens? When killed there is something like boiled yolk of egg either in the back or small end of heart, or on the small eggs."

REPLY:—You should give method of management. Your description of symptoms is indefinite. The probability is that they have been closely confined and are excessively fed.

Black Langshans.—M., Santa Clara, Cal., writes: "1. Are the Black Langshans good layers and do they lay a large dark egg? 2. Are they good sitters? 3. What breed is the best to cross with the dark Wyandotte? 4. Is there any large breed that lays white eggs?"

REPLY:—1. Yes. 2. Yes. 3. Black Java or Black Langshan; it is better not to cross breeds. 4. Houdans are about the largest.

Sitting Hens.—C. M., Whitehall, Mich., writes: "Is a sitting hen to be fed on corn and water alone? If a hen brings off chicks April 15th, would they be weaned by May 1st?"

REPLY:—It is better to feed a variety of food. Chicks hatched by hens should be hovered until well feathered, which may be not until they are six weeks old.

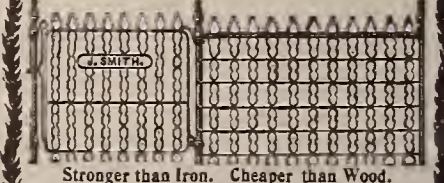
Turkeys Dying.—W. S., Loda, Ill., writes: "What is the cause of my gobblers dying every year? It seems that they cannot see; they will eat for a week after taken sick, and then do not eat after that, lingering that way for three weeks. The turkey hens remain well."

REPLY:—It is impossible to give cause and remedy unless mode of management and details are given, as there are many causes for such losses. The gobblers may be more exposed than the hens.

Preserving Eggs—Young Turkeys.—Mrs. J. J., Jacob, Iowa, writes: "I saw in your columns recently that preserving eggs in wood-ashes is best, but I would like to know for how long they would keep, and if they would keep in a cellar through the summer months?—What breed of turkeys is best, and what should be given them, when young, for the first five weeks?"

REPLY:—Eggs can be preserved for about three months in wood-ashes, but the better plan is to use eggs from hens not with males, kept in a cool place, and turned twice a week. They can be kept on racks without packing them.—The Bronze turkey is considered the best. Feed the young ones on stale bread dipped in milk, curds, chopped onion-tops, hard-boiled eggs and cracked wheat and corn.

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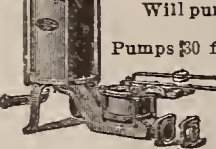


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Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should enclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

“Per Algetta.”—J. C., Donaldson, Pa., Per algetta has all the ear-marks of a fraud.

Improving Milk and Butter.—C. M. K., San Angelo, Tex. While your cow is running on good pasture, feed her, morning and evening, a grain ration. Use corn-meal and bran, corn and oats ground together, or cotton-seed meal, selecting the ration cheapest in your market.

Getting Rid of Ants.—Mrs. S., Carlyle, Ill., asks how to destroy ants in the garden. By pouring boiling water into their nests, or turning a tablespoonful of bisulphid of carbon into a small hole opened in the center of the ant-hill, and then quickly closing it, or by poisoning them with honey or syrup into which a small quantity of arsenic or Paris green has been mixed.

Mushrooms in the Cellar.—Wm. W. T., Oil City, Pa., asks for full information about raising mushrooms in the cellar. Tbat is a long story, and no matter how fully it might be described to you, failure will be liable to result. In the meantime, let me advise you to send to the Department of Agriculture for their free bulletin on mushroom-growing. You have plenty of time, as late fall and winter is the proper time to plant.

Millet.—H. J. W., Mt. Hamilton, California, writes: “What is the time of year to sow millet for hay? Do light frosts hurt it when young? How long does it take to mature for hay? I want to try some in California. I have never heard of any one ever sowing any here. Do you think the seasons too dry here? Where can I get the seed?”

REPLY:—Millet is a warm-weather plant, and should not be sown until a month after the time of frosts. In Ohio it is sown after late corn-planting time. Sown the first of June, it is ready to cut for hay in about seven weeks. In your climate you can sow it so that it will mature before it can suffer from the summer drought. All seedsmen can furnish seed.

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

Note.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Actinomycesis.—D. C. B., Kearney, Neb. According to your statements the disease of your cow is actinomycesis (so-called lump-jaw) in the bones, and incurable.

So-called Ear-worm.—H. J. C., Creston, Ind. What you describe is a case of otitis, or so-called ear-worm. Please consult answer given to D. B. S., Cassopolis, Mich., in FARM AND FIRESIDE of April 1st.

Incomplete Paralysis.—A. A., Douglas, Ohio. The incomplete paralysis of the hind quarters of your colt, existing without showing any improvement since last fall, must be considered incurable, and to attempt a treatment will be throwing away time, labor and expense.

Looks Very Suspicious.—L. W. G., Cbeney, Kan. From your description I very much suspect that your cow is in an advanced stage of tuberculosis, and I advise you not to use the milk if she is yet producing any. Any competent veterinarian will be able to make the diagnosis by examining her, without resorting to the tuberculin test.

A Spoiled Udder.—J. M., Mt. Vernon, Ohio. If the spoiled balf of your cow's udder, spoiled two years ago, is now free from any signs of inflammation, such as abnormal heat, redness and painful swelling, leave it severely alone and do not irritate it with anything, but attend promptly to the milking of the yet healthy balf as soon as the cow is fresh again.

Habitual Abortion.—K. W. D., Fort Collins, Col. As a rule an animal like your cow, which has once or oftener aborted at the same period of gestation, is very apt to do so each time she is with calf. I do not see that anything reliable can be done to prevent it. In some, but not in many cases, a radical change of all surrounding conditions has apparently been effective.

Subjects for the Tuberculin Test.—S. H. C., Hepburn, Ohio. I think your two cows are good subjects for the tuberculin test. Tbis, of course, does not mean that they are affected with tuberculosis, for then the test would be superfluous, but it means that I regard their condition such that they must be suspected. Concerning the first-mentioned cow, it may be possible that a competent veterinarian can make a definite diagnosis without applying the tuberculin test.

Diseased Hind Knee.—C. P. L., Leicester, Mass. It is very poor business to buy lame or diseased horses, no matter how cheap they may be, for nobody is apt to sell such an animal “for anything he can get,” unless he is convinced that there is no prospect whatever of a cure. The worst of all lamenesses of long standing, as far as the prognosis is concerned, is that caused by diseased hind knee, particularly if the knee-pan (patella) itself has been seriously injured, as seems to be the case in your animal. If this is not satisfactory, have your horse examined by a competent veterinarian, and do not throw away time and money on quackery.

Loco-poisoning.—F. S. R., Freeman, Cal. There are several noxious weeds in our southern and western states and territories, all called loco-weeds. The best known among them is probably one known to botanists as Astragalus mollissimus. The symptoms you give correspond to those produced by loco-poisoning. I cannot recommend you any remedy, and as far as I know none has as yet been discovered. The only known prevention consists in keeping the horses away from all such places in which the loco-plants are growing. It is claimed by men of experience that horses if once having tasted the injurious weed will hunt for it and eat it again if they can get it.

Diseased Feet.—C. S., Manchester, N. J. If your horse shows signs of sloughing off the front hoofs, the cause probably consists in severe laminitis (founder). A new hoof of nearly but not perfectly normal horn can be produced in a year, provided the matrix of the horn is not too much damaged and the treatment is superintended by a competent veterinarian. The production of horn can be hastened and the time required for the re-production of a new hoof can be shortened to nine months, or even less, if the coronet is kept in a congested condition; but in that case the new horn will be morbid and of no account.

Epizootic Abortion.—P. H., Kanopolis, Kan. What you describe is a case of epizootic, or infectious, abortion. Remove all cows which are yet with calf to another non-infected place, and keep them there until they have calved or until the premises in which they have been kept have been reliably cleaned and disinfected. Disinfect the external genitals and tails of the cows that have aborted with a reliable disinfectant, say either a one-per-mille solution of corrosive sublimate or a two or three per cent solution of creolin in water. If one is aborting burn the dead fetus and the afterbirth. Also clean and disinfect the premises, particularly the stalls in which cows have aborted. If the infectious abortion is extensive in your part of the state it may be advisable to inform your state veterinarian, Dr. Paul Fischer, Manhattan, Kan., so that concerted action may be taken against that disease in your whole neighborhood.

Arthritis.—E. R., Pomona, Kan. What you describe appears to be a case of arthritis, but your description, although very good as far as it goes, does not contain anything reliably indicating the nature of the morbid affection of the several joints of your beifer. Therefore it will probably require an examination of the animal by a competent veterinarian to decide whether the affection is pyemic (or septic), tuberculous or rachitic in its nature. The latter, however, is not very probable, because the beifer, as you say, is already two years old, consequently the two first-mentioned possibilities are the most probable. If the disease is tuberculosis the prognosis is bad, and if the same is of a septic or pyemic character the prospect of recovery is a slim one and that the more so as the present features, lameness and swelling of the joints, have been present since January 1st, and the disease already showed its first symptoms on October 1st.

Distortion of the Neck.—C. F. J., Gering, Neb. You say that about thirty days ago your horse got cast in the stable, and when you got him up you found his neck crooked, considerably drawn to one side and stiff, and that till now the neck is in the same condition. When the horse got down (possibly having attempted to scratch his head and in that way got a hind foot over the halter-strap or chain), one of two things happened. In endeavoring to get up, either the muscles on one side (the convex one) of the neck became paralyzed or torn, or the oblique processes of the cervical vertebrae on one side (the now convex one) of the neck broke or their fibrous ligaments became torn, and thus a subluxation and consequent distortion was effected. In either case your sharp liniments and other nostrums will do damage, and any violence you may use in an attempt to straighten the neck will be detrimental. If trouble is in the muscles, the neck will gradually regain its natural condition and probably no trace will be left, except, perhaps, if the muscles have been torn, a slight concavity on the now convex side of the neck, provided your horse is not too old. If a subluxation, caused by a fracture of the oblique processes of the cervical vertebrae exists, and constitutes the cause of the crookedness, the neck will also more or less, though perhaps not completely, regain its normal condition, but a little callous swelling will be apt to remain on the now convex side. All you have to do is to leave the animal alone and to attend to its wants in regard to food and drink, and not to attempt to work the same until a recovery has been effected.

Several Questions.—G. W. B., Doddville, Va. Paralysis in the hind quarters of swine may be produced by various causes, and is curable only if the causes are known and can be removed, as has been repeatedly explained in these columns. Among the principal and most frequent causes I will again mention: Any injury or morbid affection of the spinal cord and its enveloping membranes, a fracture of the spinal column, a morbid affection or degeneration of the locomotory muscles of the hind quarters, caused, for instance, by trichinosis (principally affecting the psoas muscles or tenderloins), by a want of nitrogenous food and insufficient exercise or by any other causes. Besides this, such a paralysis is often a symptom or a concomitant of swine-plague (so-called hog-cholera). As to your lame mare it seems you mistake the hock-joint for the knee-joint or the joint above, which is the only one corresponding to the human knee, because the ailments you speak of, namely curb and capped hock, do not and cannot occur on the knee-joint. Still, as these ailments very seldom cause severe lameness, the lameness of your mare, which, by the way, must have very weak hock-joints, since she got curbed when already six years old, is probably caused by something else, possibly by spavin. Besides this, it is very rare that a horse has a capped hock and curb on one and the same joint. I therefore decidedly advise you to have your mare examined by a

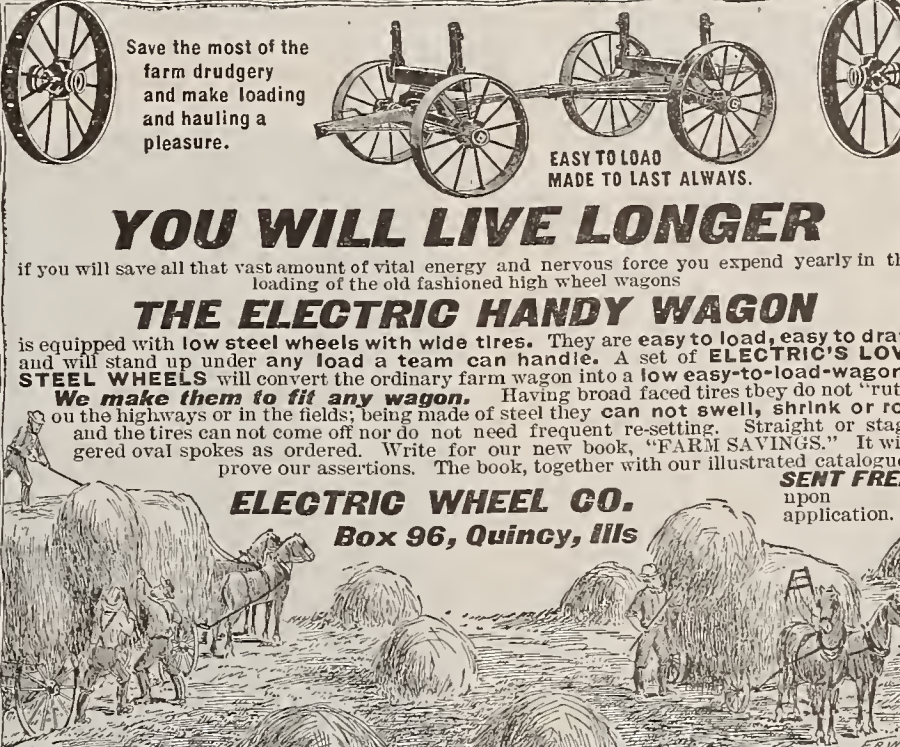
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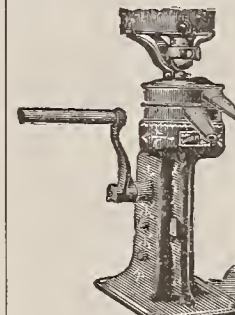
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competent veterinarian, who, undoubtedly, will find the seat of the lameness and may possibly also find that what you call a curb and a capped hock is somewhat different from what is usually meant by these terms. So-called scratches, unless too inveterate, will soon be brought to healing if you will make two or three times a day to all the sores a liberal application of a mixture of liquid subacetate of lead (not acetate of lead), one part, and olive-oil, three parts; keep the horse on a clean and dry floor, and see to it that the feet are not getting wet.

Mange.—A. C. B., Kent, Ore. There are several remedies that will cure mange in horses if properly applied, and with several of those you have used you would have succeeded if you had applied them in a proper manner and if you had not neglected to prevent a reinfection. One of the mildest and least injurious to the animals is to give the latter first a thorough wash with soap and warm water, and then, before they are perfectly dry, another wash with a five-per-cent solution of creolin (Pearson's) in water, but at the same time everything on which the mange mites may possibly have been deposited must be thoroughly cleaned and be disinfected in such a way that every mite is surely destroyed; consequently, the stable and all other premises in which the mangy horses have been kept, all stable utensils, harness, blankets, balters, ropes, bridles, curry-comb, brushes, rags used for cleaning, etc., must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and what cannot be reliably cleaned and disinfected must be burned. All this done, it is advisable to whitewash the stable, or at least all the woodwork in the same. This treatment must be repeated in just such a thorough manner on the sixth day, and in inveterate cases like yours, again on the eleventh day after the first application. If this is done, no mistake made and nothing neglected, your horses will be clean. I will yet mention that the clothing of the attendants must undergo the same process of cleaning and disinfection, as everything else that comes in contact with the horses. Cloth is best disinfected by boiling it in hot water and washing; leather, by cleaning it with soap and warm water and then oiling it; woodwork, by washing it with hot water and soap and then by whitewashing it with chloride of lime. Floors may be cleaned first with hot water and then be disinfected with a cheap but effective disinfectant, for instance, with a one-per-mille (1:1000) solution of corrosive sublimate in water, or with a five-per-cent solution of carbolic acid, etc. The bedding of the horses and all other litter and manure in the stalls, and all other things on which the mites may have been deposited, but cannot be disinfected, must be burned.

Taenia Serrata.—W. E., Upper Lake, Cal. The cystworm (larva) of Taenia serrata occurs sometimes in large numbers in the liver, lungs and the serous membranes of the abdominal cavity, including the mesenterium and epiploon, of hares and rabbits, but is particularly frequent in the jack-rabbits of the western and southwestern states and territories. Therefore, as long as dogs have an opportunity to catch and to consume all the jack-rabbits they want, it will do very little good to free the dogs from their tapeworms, because, if done, they soon will have others. The only way to protect them is to either

A Leap in the Dark



is always dangerous and to be avoided. The farmer or dairyman who buys an inferior separator takes a leap in the dark. Avoid all danger and possibility of error by buying a SHARPLES SEPARATOR. If for a few cows buy the SAFETY HAND SEPARATOR. If for more than a few cows buy the LITTLE GIANT SEPARATOR. In either event you get the best that your money will buy. They are made to save all the butter fat.

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exterminate the rabbits or to effectively prevent the dogs catching them and eating them. Frequently hunters of rabbits are at fault themselves by giving the dogs the offal of a killed rabbit, and with it the cystworms containing the embryo tapeworms. As long as there are rabbits infested with the cystworms (Cysticercus pisiformis), an eradication of the "pest," as you call it, is an impossibility. Where a reinfection can be prevented, several remedies may be used to free dogs from tapeworms. Professor Zuern, who is an authority on entozoa, recommends the areca-nut, a palm-tree fruit, and calls it the most sovereign remedy, but admits that the areca-nut in order to be effective must be fresh, and that the same, if old, is ineffective. The dose for a large dog, according to him, is about half an ounce of the powdered nut, which, he says, should be mixed with butter, and is then, as a rule, voluntarily taken by the dog. He claims that the tapeworms usually pass off within a few hours after the medicine has been taken. I have tried the areca-nut, but must confess have seen no effect whatever, but it may be that the areca-nuts I was able to obtain were too old. I have had the best success with the extract of the male fern (Extractum Filicis maris). The dose of this for a large dog is from three to four grains, or from forty-five to sixty grains, to be mixed with a little flour and water, or with honey, syrup or glycerin, and to be given in the shape of a pill. It is advisable to give first one balf of the above dose and a few hours later the other half, and then a little later an effective physic, say some castor-oil. Still, to make the treatment effective it is necessary first to prepare the dog for it by keeping the same for two days on a very light and somewhat salty diet, perhaps a little soup, and no solid food. On the day the medicine is given the dog should receive no food whatever. A decoction of garlic in milk has also been recommended, but I have never tried it and do not know anything about its effectiveness.

Our Fireside.

"IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT."

If I should die to-night,
My friends would look upon my quiet face
Before they laid it in its resting-place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And laying snow-white flowers against my hair,
Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness,
And fold my hands, with lingering caress,
Poor hands, so empty and so cold to-night.

If I should die to-night,
My friends would call to mind with loving thought
Some kindly deed the icy hand had wrought,
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said;
Errands on which the willing feet had sped.
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night,
Even hearts estranged would turn once more to me
Recalling of her days remorsefully.
The eyes that chill me with averted glance
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance,
And soften in the old familiar way.
For who would war with dumb unconscious clay?
So I might rest, forgiven of all to-night.

O friend, I pray to-night,
Keep not your kisses for my dead, cold brow.
The way is lonely; let me feel them now.
Think gently of me; I am travel-worn;
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn.
Forgive! O hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need
The tenderness for which I long to-night.

Littell's Living Age.

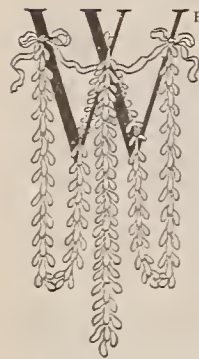
A TRUE KNIGHT OF LABOR

BY KATE TANNATT WOODS.

Author of "A Fair Maid of Marblehead," "The Wooing of Grandmother Grey," "Hidden for Years," "The Minister's Secret," "Hester Hepworth," "Sophia Blount, Spinster," "Six Little Rebels," "Dr. Dick," "Mopsy," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER VII.

AN IMPORTANT POSTSCRIPT.



WHEN Joe left the train at Prison Point he went at once to the only public house in the place and asked if Mr. Crossman had arrived. He had not; he was expected, however, and the gentleman had better wait. Joe looked at his watch, the very watch little Meg had described. Mr. Crossman must have missed the express and would be in on the way train; he would never miss the appointment made a week previous and now more important than ever. Joe decided to look about the place while he was waiting. A thoroughly wide-awake man can learn something in the dirtiest, dingiest and most uninviting hole on the face of the earth, and Joe was alive to his very finger-tips. Anxious as he was about Meg, and impatient for the arrival of the lawyer, who had promised to take him in to see Smithers, he interested himself in the running of the street-cars and went out of his way to see the "plant." He saw several errors in the system, as he thought, and he made a note of them in the little book which never left his pocket. By that time the train was due, and he went back to meet the lawyer he had engaged to defend Smithers. He was just in time, and was warmly greeted by Mr. Crossman.

"Well, Mr. Knight of Labor, what have you new for me?"

"Bad news, Crossman; the worst of news; that poor child has been stolen again."

"The devil!" exclaimed the lawyer. "How and when?"

"Early this morning. The police are at work on it, and I have done what I could."

"Come up to the old tavern and let us talk it over," said the lawyer. "I am starving, man; how are you?"

"I shall have a better appetite when I feel that you know the worst of this business," said Joe.

"Come, come, sir knight; don't despair; one man with a stout heart and a well-filled stomach is worth ten who are hungry. Let us eat and be filled, and then we will talk of my client."

There was something contagious in the lawyer's good humor, and Joe found much amusement in listening to his comments on cooking in general, hotel cooking in particular, and a little of anything and everything save the matter in hand.

"I never permit myself to talk shop at the table," said Mr. Crossman, as he rose from his chair. "It gives one indigestion, and I want to tackle my work like a re-created man. Now, sir knight, let us go up-stairs and look over the ground." Joe was only too ready.

At the end of an hour both men descended and called for a carriage. They were driven at once to the jail. Both were busy thinking intently until they arrived at their destination.

The jailer knew Joe a very little and mere-

ly bowed, but the genial lawyer received a cordial greeting. "I must see my client to-day, Brewer," he said, "for a long time; and my friend here must see him also."

"He is chafing under restraint," said the jailer, "and calling himself no end of names for losing his temper. I am sure that he will be glad to see you."

"A man is only one kind of a fool at a time," said the lawyer, "and Smithers comes of too good stock to be a big fool even at the worst. We will cheer him up."

Joe was not quite as sanguine of the lawyer. The news of Megs' capture would make him almost desperate, and he hesitated about telling him.

"We will make a clean breast of it," said Mr. Crossman; "it will do more to make points for my client than you think."

"But the poor fellow has borne so much now," said Joe; "if he were not a brave man at heart he would have gone under when he first got home from Europe."

"According to all accounts he did descend into Hades; otherwise, the 'Great Bubble Iron Work,'" said Mr. Crossman.

The jailer laughed, and unlocked the doors for the gentlemen to enter. Smithers sat upon the bed holding a small book, upon which were several hits of paper; he had been making a drawing of some kind of machinery. He was genuinely glad to see Mr. Crossman, who had met him once before, and he took both of Joe's hands in his without uttering a word. Joe noticed how fever-

"What grounds have you for feeling that she is unjustly incarcerated?"

For the first time the man's lips quivered.

"I have many reasons," he said.

"Let me know them."

"Joe knows them as well," said Smithers, "and although it makes a man feel anything but happy to disclose a family skeleton, I shall have to do so. Rivington can help me out if he will. He was engaged to my youngest sister, and after she died Joe has been like one of the family. My eldest sister was a very unhappy woman. Long before my father's death he hesought her to leave this man and return home, but her ideas of wifely duty were strict, and then, her child was her idol. I worshiped my sisters, both of them, and although I could not save one from the sneers and taunts of the polished, gentlemanly villain whom she married, I did my best for her."

"He is a very popular man, I find," said the lawyer, "especially with the ladies."

"His smooth tongue would deceive an angel," said Smithers, bitterly.

"My father tracked him and proved his villainy; indeed, he openly told him that he should expose him to the world, and was mocked for his pains."

"The property was so arranged when your father died that he could not touch it?"

"Yes. It was left absolutely to my sister and her child; all of it, except a few thousands which came to Joe, here, at my youngest sister's desire."



SMITHERS SAT UPON THE BED HOLDING A SMALL BOOK.

SHE BENT DOWN WITH HER BURDEN AND PICKED IT UP.

ish they were, and he inwardly resolved to get him free as soon as possible.

"Well, my boy," said Mr. Crossman, "we are ready for a bill of particulars, and I want you to go back to the time of your coming home; I also want to get an accurate description of the two men who were so eager to have you arrested."

Smithers answered every question with great care.

"Then you honestly believe that this is one part of the plot laid out by your distinguished relative in order to get you out of the way?"

"I know it, Mr. Crossman, since he threatened it!"

"The property being left to your sister when you were supposed to be dead?"

"I was reported dead, and was moving about constantly in foreign lands; consequently I knew nothing of the rumors."

"Not hearing from your sister you cabled over here?"

"Yes; not once, but several times."

"And you heard at last that sorrow and anxiety had dethroned her reason and she was confined in a private asylum for the insane?"

"Yes."

"And her child?"

"Not one word of the child until I returned to America."

"Have you been able to see your sister?"

"Not even for a moment."

"You have attempted to do so?"

"Repeatedly."

"You have received yours, Mr. Rivington?"

asked the lawyer.

"I did receive it, but every dollar will be devoted to righting Harry's wrongs."

"I see; and you were the first one to learn the particulars of the plea of insanity?"

"I was."

"And he has worked like a hero ever since," said Smithers. "I should have given up in despair but for Joe."

It was nearly dark when the lawyer and Joe left the jail. Smithers was happier for their visit. When a man is a captive, nothing helps like the thought of those outside working for him.

"Rivington," said the lawyer, as they parted, "here is an anonymous letter which came to me, and the postscript is peculiar. Tell me what you think of it."

Joe read the following words:

"Watch a woman with blonde hair who makes generous purchases in Chichester."

CHAPTER VIII.

PROMOTION.

Two days after the disappearance of little Meg, Joe returned to the works. Every one seemed glad to see him, even Frenchy, who seldom showed any interest in any one. Mr. Carroll went out of his way to shake hands with him, and remarked that he had some good news for him. Joe's heart gave a great bound; he was sure that Meg had been traced or heard from, and he marveled how

it could be, when Captain Jasper had been with him for a half hour that day, and had nothing new to offer.

"I should be rejoiced to hear good news," said Joe.

"Well, some of those hospital doctors are related to one of the officers of the company, and they have been saying all sorts of good things about you which just came on top of my strong claim to get you in as foreman of this division while Gustaffson is sick. He won't be well for a month yet; and it means double pay and an easier life. I wanted you with me, but the old man kicked against it, for he has a nephew he wants to work in as soon as the boy is out of school."

"I thank you very much, Mr. Carroll, very much; and while I should like to be with you, there are several reasons why I should prefer to be here with the men."

"Then you will take the place of Gustaffson?"

"I will do so."

"All right; you had better see the Supe now, for it is 'strike while the iron is hot' in this place; all the same, I want you with me. Any trace of the little one yet, Joe?"

"No trace; at least none which helps us much; I am working on a clue, however."

"If I can help you, let me know."

"I certainly will, Mr. Carroll."

"And Joe; the mistress of 'Maloney Castle' tells me that she misses the sound of your violin. I do something in that way myself, and I am a bit lonely up here, suppose you come up some afternoon and let us try a chord or two. You are fond of music?"

"Very. My mother and myself spent many a happy hour in that way before I lost her."

"That's queer. Why, Joe, it is one of the greatest pleasures of my life, or was before I came here, to play with my mother. I must tell her about you; she frets a good deal about my solitary life, and I think it will be a good sort of missionary work if you will come up and wield the bow with me."

"I will come up with pleasure, when this matter of the child is cleared up. I blame myself for leaving her. Smithers needs help now, and the company are not likely to help him. Why should they? He is only one man among thousands?"

"He is no ordinary man, one can see," said Mr. Carroll, "and I heard one of the officers say that they never had a better book-keeper; but they could not possibly employ any man who had once been in jail."

"Whether the charge be false or true," said Joe, with fine scorn, "our nineteenth century Christianity needs revision, Mr. Carroll. The brotherhood of man is preached extensively, and practised grudgingly."

"Well, well, Joe, wouldn't my little mother like to meet you; she is always saying that, in words, and living a great, broad, generous life."

"I should like to see her," said Joe. "At least I might under some circumstances."

"She would be glad to know you, Joe; but tell me, how on earth did they get poor Smithers locked up for merely knocking a man down who insulted him?"

"The charge was assault with intent to kill. It was false; and Smithers is the victim of a plot. It is a long story and a sad one; when the case comes into court I hope you will testify to the poor fellow's good character."

"Indeed I will."

"Then you will learn, Mr. Carroll, as I have, that our free America, with all her charms, has some blots on her shield; and shutting up innocent people in insane asylums is one of them."

"Why, Joe, I know of a case, or mother does, and she is all worked up about it."

"Did it ever occur to you, Mr. Carroll, that there is something wrong when it is possible under some of our state laws to lock up a woman and thus get control of her property?"

"Is that so, Joe?"

"I am ashamed to say, as a man and a legal voter, that it is not only so, but has been done more than once. When a man is crafty enough to take advantage of the law, he is also sharp enough to so misrepresent matters that a nervous condition produced by constant cruelty and persecution can be made to appear as insanity; and even experts have been deceived. A villain may be months or only weeks in accomplishing his purpose, but he will find means of doing it, especially when the law gives him control of two thirds of all his wife's property and makes him guardian of her minor heirs, by which he virtually obtains control of the whole, as in our state."

"Good heavens, Joe, who ever made such laws?"

"Men," said Joe, laconically.

"And women are actually confined in asylums for the purpose of getting their money?"

"I believe that it is done in many cases."

"Why don't some one move in the matter and make a speedy change?"

"Good people have been calling attention to these facts for many years."

"Why don't they succeed?"

"Because the law-makers have not found time for such important matters, and it is easier to call the earnest people 'cranks' and 'reformers' than it is to unearthen evils which may change the votes of a few men who aspire to office, or who hold office."

"What can they say when their victims are freed and tell their sad tales of bitter experience, as my mother's friend has done?"

"They will look upon them with suspicion, and hunt over all the family records to find some one whose mind was unbalanced."

"And if they do not succeed?"

"Then they will get an expert to talk of the disordered nerves caused by some sudden shock; that is a common thing. I have been told."

"Are you not a little cynical, Joe?"

"I hope not. For years a dear friend of mine has been incarcerated in a private asylum. She is perfectly sane. Every one knows it who knows her, yet we have not sufficient power as yet to circumvent the man who uses his knowledge of medicine and his position to crush her, while he spends her property on those of her sex whom he prefers."

"It makes a man wish for money and time and strength and influence, backed by moral courage, in those who occupy high places, Mr. Carroll."

"You are right, Joe; but tell me, how in the world did a man of your intelligence ever turn up in this place, Joe? Why, you might be at the head of a company of your own."

"All men have some secrets of their own, Mr. Carroll, and I have mine."

"Pardon me for seeming inquisitive, Joe; I respect your feelings, but I have wondered a good many times why, and I should like to see you controlling a large body of men; you are equal to it."

"Thank you, Mr. Carroll; there must be quite a number of men at work for this company who are equal to better places, if the opportunity offered."

Joe went as requested to the office of the superintendent, and was told to await that gentleman's arrival. He came at last, and matters were satisfactorily settled. Joe would take the place of the sick foreman at once.

He went home in the early morning, tired and hungry, to find a messenger from Captain Jasper, asking him to come to his office as soon as possible. "And there's a letter for you too, sir, which I can't help hoping may be from the child," said Mrs. Malouey. "Joe went up the stairs three steps at a time."

CHAPTER IX.

THE DOCTOR'S DEVOTED FRIEND.

When Mrs. Golden heard the child scream she sprang from the couch and ran to her. Meg had fainted and was lying upon the floor near a door leading into the large hall. It was partly open. It had not been opened before since the child's arrival, as the suite occupied by the nurse and child had several other entrances.

All the meals for Mrs. Golden and her charge were sent up to them on a dumb waiter in the rear room of the suite. Only once or twice had the child walked over the stairs; once, to look at the portraits in the drawing-room below, and once again, when Mrs. Golden took her down to select a few books from the library. The doctor had requested that she must henceforth remain in the suite above; and as Mrs. Golden was forbidden to leave her, save to admit the physician when she was sleeping, both were virtually captives.

Mrs. Golden could not see any reason for such absolute seclusion; indeed, she felt that the child would grow strong much faster if she could be permitted to take her for daily walks in the fresh air.

One glance showed the nurse that the unused door had been opened from the outside. Meg's pet doll, Selina, had been placed in a low chair with her back to the door, and the doll was now face down upon the carpet. No one had ever ventured upon this floor since Mrs. Golden's arrival, when the doctor gave strict orders that even the cook must not see the child. Mrs. Golden had seen the cook once only, before Meg came; after that all her orders were given through the speaking-tube which led from the rear room direct to the kitchen.

The self-reproach of the nurse for falling asleep could not be measured by words. She lifted her little charge from the floor and applied some restoratives. Never before had she felt her bondage as now. When she had made the child comfortable on her own little bed she examined the door and looked out into the hall. Who had been there? How could she examine the premises to determine?

Not once in her life had she broken her word to an employer, and now she longed to do so. She closed the door softly and sat down to think over the situation, holding the child's hand in hers, lest she might waken and be alarmed. She was glad to see Meg open her eyes.

"Ah, Peggy dear, here we are; and you are feeling better, aren't you?"

"I don't know," said Meg, wearily.

"Oh, well, I know," said the nurse, cheerily; "see, the window is open and the air is cool and pure, and when you are rested we will walk about a little."

"Nurse, what made the bad woman come again?"

"Perhaps you fancied it, dear."

"No, I saw her. It was all still and you were asleep."

"What were you doing, honey?"

"I took my book about the birds, and I was reading so very, very still, for fear I would wake you up, and then, oh, nurse—"

"There, there, Peggy dear, don't tremble so; see, you are safe with me, and no one can harm you; tell me what frightened you, and then you will feel better."

"Oh, the door opened softly, softly, and she looked in, and when I saw her I screamed for you."

"Are you very sure, child? Perhaps you had another bad dream."

"No, nurse, oh, no; she was there, and she looked frightened when I stared at her, and then she went away."

Mrs. Golden took the child in her arms and soothed her. As Meg grew calmer under her influence she determined to carry out a plan she had formed during the child's unconsciousness.

"Peggy dear," she said, "I have never left you a moment since you came to me, have I, love?"

"No, nurse, never."

"I cannot leave you now."

"Please don't; oh, nurse, never leave me."

"No, dear, I will not. You and I are forbidden to see any one or have visitors; and yet some one has dared to intrude upon us. Now, dear, I have a little plan; will you trust me?"

"Yes, nurse, yes; only you and Uncle Joe."

"Then I want you to be a brave little girl and let me take you in my arms with your eyes tightly closed while I look sharply for the one who opened the door. Will you trust me, dear?"

"Yes, nurse, if you will put something tight over my eyes so that I cannot see the bad woman again, if she is there."

"You shall not see a human being, child. Ah, little Peggy, you are my brave little girl, now," said Mrs. Golden, as she tied a soft silk handkerchief over Meg's eyes and enveloped her in a large gray shawl. "Hold as tightly as you choose, dear; I have lifted sick men and women, and you are a feather's weight. Do not speak, only listen, and I will quietly search for our bad visitor."

Mrs. Golden carefully examined the upper hall, but could see no trace of the intruder. In the lower hall she detected a small fold of something white near the head of the stairs leading below. She bent down with her burden and picked it up, pushing it quickly into the bosom of her dress. Slowly and carefully she went on down the next staircase.

She could hear voices in the kitchen, and she paused to listen.

"Suppose she should come down?" said a man's voice.

"No danger; she can't leave the young one."

"It was a risk," said the man.

"Maybe, but when I found that the dragon had gone to sleep I listened awhile and found it so still I thought the kid had too; but when I peeked in, there she sat a-reading, and she yelled out and I slipped back."

"What will come of it?" asked the man.

"Nothing; it will be put down to the bad dreams, that's all."

"How does she look?"

"Better than she did. It was his talk about her wonderful improvement that made me vow to see her. I hate her."

"Oh, come now; she's never hurt you, and if she was gone where would he get the rocks?"

"He is smart enough to make all he wants; and I am tired of waiting to go away and be a lady."

A sudden movement in the kitchen induced Mrs. Golden to retrace her steps. She had heard enough to make her tremble almost as violently as her little charge had done. She went back to her rooms as quietly as she had left them, and removed the wrappings from Meg.

"What did you hear, child," she asked.

"Two voices; but not all the words, for the shawl was so thick."

"That is good. Rest here, honey, on the sofa, while I write down every word they uttered. Peggy dear, just thank the good Father that you were put under Mary Golden's care."

"Oh, nurse, I do every day, and I pray for Uncle Joe, too, for he could help us both. Won't you write and tell him so?"

"Would that I could, you poor baby."

That night, when Meg was sleeping restlessly after the excitement of the day, the doctor came.

He was, if possible, more suave than usual and quite charmed with all Mrs. Golden had done. "Fainted to-day, did she?" he asked.

"Yes, doctor."

"What caused it?"

"Partly the need of more fresh air, and a fright; some one, the cook I think, intruded upon us and opened the door, looking in upon the child."

The doctor looked astonished. "It is impossible," he said.

"It is true, sir. Have you perfect confidence in the cook, sir?"

"Absolute, my dear madam. Celeste has been devoted to me for years. She had an unfortunate love affair several years since, and I befriended her. Since then she has been my most faithful friend and has even nursed me through a long illness."

"Has she any male friends now, doctor?"

"No, oh, no; she detests men; all, save her physician. In order to relieve your mind of any latent suspicion concerning Celeste I will go down and see her a few moments."

The doctor went down, but the faithful friend was not to be found. It was impossible to explain her absence.

(To be Continued.)

ASA MEANS' FORTUNE

BY J. L. HARBOUR.



DUNNO that it was Asy Means's fault that he was so shiftless. It ran in the Means' family to be slack and do-less. His mother was one of these wimmen who never wash out their dish-rags nor sweep under the beds, and she never combed her hair, exceptin' of a Sunday. His father, old Zeh Means, would fish all day and fiddle at a tune most of the night. A body hadn't ought to expect much of the son of one of these fishin' and fiddlin' men if there's anything in what they call hereditary.

"Old Zeb Means heat anybody I ever run across fer out an' ont shiftless. He was one of these men who air always 'aimin' to do things, but never git them done. When one of his babies died years an' years ago, Zeb did spunk up enough to git a pair of tombstones. But his energy give out after the tombstones was done, an' I know that fifteen years after the child died them tombstones was kickin' round the Means' place. They got to usein' the little footstones to crack wa'nuts an' hick'ry-nuts on, an' the big one got broke into in the middle, an' they used one half fer a weight in the sour-krant bar'l an' Mis' Means kep' the other half in the kitchen to pound beef-steak on. Did you ever? But its the gospel truth an' only a fair sample of the Means' shiftlessness. Asy Means came honest by his do-lessness."

A soft, cool breeze swept across the shining grass of the Kilhy meadow, and stole in among the apple-trees of the old orchard in which Mrs. Kilhy and I were sitting, she with her ample hack against the gnarled trunk of the tree, and I against a moss-covered boulder with an unopened novel in my lap. It was better to hear any tale of real life from Mrs. Kilhy's lips than to read a similar tale on any printed page.

It was the first time since I had become one of her summer boarders that Mrs. Kilhy had found time for an hour or two of rest in the afternoon. Indeed, she was not really resting now. No waste of time would ever be laid to the charge of Mrs. Kilhy. There were not even "odd moments" of idleness in her busy life. A bit of patchwork of an intricate design in green and red and blue and purple calico was in her lap.

"It's a Star o' Hope quilt I'm piecin' fer a niece o' mine who's to be married in October, an' I got to hump myself to git it pieced an' quilted by that time. There'll be over three thousand pieces in it, an' I'm goin' to quilt it in a feather an' herring-bone pattern. Seems to me I never was so drove with work, an' I—but I was goin' to tell you 'bout Asy Means."

She reeled off a needleful of thread from the spool, and bit it off with her teeth before saying:

"Asy had a little more git-up than his father had, but he couldn't or wouldn't stick to a thing. He'd farm a little while, then he'd go to teamin', then he'd go to well-diggin', an' from that to ruinin' a fish-eart. Then he'd work a little while in the saw-mill, an' give that up to go 'round tinkerin' clocks. He set up as a boss doctor once, an' then he got religion an' put off over the country preachin' at revival meetings. You could hear 'im a mile when he got to exhortin', and he'd stamp an' prance 'round dreadful. He made a real good one at preachin' long as he didn't try to interpret the scriptures too close, for he was so ignorant he could just barely read, an' one night over in Mizpah he created a real sensation by not even bein' able to read correctly. You know it says there in the twelfth chapter of Matthew, 'He that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad,' an' what did poor Asy do but git up an' read it this way: 'He that gathereth not with me scratcheth a board!'

"Yes, he did! The poor thing was just that ignorant. They're purty well up in scripture over Mizpah way, an' when Asy began to dwell on how hard it was to scratch a board they kind of lost confidence in 'im, an' he had to give up the revivalist business. It was too bad, for he meant well. But my husband he says he'd rather one would call him an out an' out fool than to say that he 'meant well,' for he says that some of the things these people who 'mean well' do prove that they are fools. Still, I think Asy Means did mean well, and he wa'n't always such a fool as he looked."

"The Meanses lived in that little old red house down there by the river bridge. It don't look much worse now than it looked when the Meanses lived there, although Asy was always just agoin' to fix it up. He was always agoin' to do this an' that, soon as he could git 'round to it, but it did take him the longest time to git 'round to the most necessary things that he could of done in an hour. I remember that once the eat fell into the Means' well and drowned there, and they lugged all their drinkin' and cookin' water clear from our house, half a mile away, for six months while Asy was trying to git

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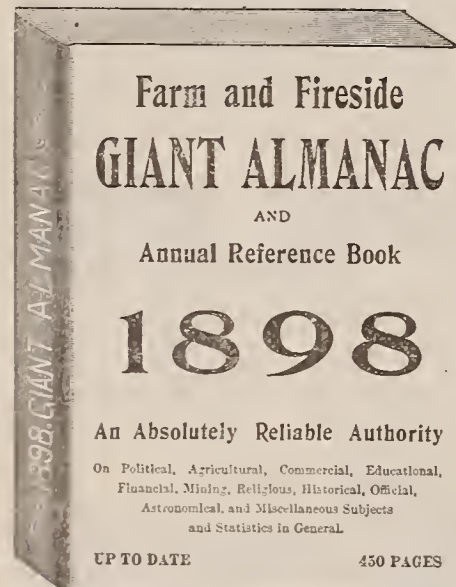


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THE SONG OF THE JELLYFISH.

As the waves slip over my cuticle sleek
They tickle my soul with glee.
And I shake with a visceral, saccharine joy
In the place where my ribs should be.
For I'm simply a lump of limpid lard,
With a gluey sort of a wish
To pass my time in the oozing slime—
In the home of the jellyfish.

But I'm happy in having no bones to break
In my unctuous, wavering form,
And I haven't a trace—nor indeed any place
For the dangerous vermiform.
For I'm built on the strictest economy plan,
And the model was made in a rush,
While essaying to think almost drives me to
drink,
For I'm simply a mass of mush.

At night when I slide on the sandy beach
And the moonbeams pierce me through,
The tears arise in my gelatin eyes
And I gurgle a sob or two.
For I wonder—ah, me!—in the time to come,
When the days are no longer young,
What fish's digestion will suffer congestion
When the end of my song is sung.
—Jarvis Kelley, in Life.

SOME EGYPTIAN MAXIMS.

The mistress and two slaves for frying two eggs. "Much ado about nothing."

Like the old woman at a wedding, they eat and mock. Rehuking discontent. Applied to one who, though perhaps gratified even beyond his expectations, affects to despise what has been bestowed upon him.

It is but a day and night and the pilgrims' caravan will arrive at Romela. Romela (Menshiyah nowadays), situated at the foot of the Citadel of Cairo, is the starting-place of the Mahmal, or holy carpet for Mecca, and where this carpet is brought after covering the prophet's tomb at Mecca for a year. The saying is commonly used to counsel patience. A day and night only and the long wearisome journey will have come to an end.

What has your father left you? He replied a he goat and it died. A company of friends sat down to eat. One of them asked another, not the most intelligent of the party, what he had inherited, whereupon he narrated a long story which was not finished till the last dish was brought; then, seeking to avenge himself, he asked the same question of another, who replied briefly as above, in order not to lose his share of the repast. Hence the proverb is frequently used to denote a reluctance to being questioned.

He who does not make me as "kohl" in his eye I would not wear as a slipper. Kohl is a black powder commonly composed of the smoke-black which is produced by burning a kind of "liban," an aromatic resin. It is used for blackening the edge of the eyelids and eyebrows of the Egyptian women as adornment. The expression used figuratively means that if a neighbor does not pay the speaker attention the latter will treat the former with contempt, the slipper being frequently employed as a term of reproach. In the streets of Cairo "you son of an old slipper" is constantly heard.—The Cairo Sphinx.

HINDOO PURSUIT OF A TREASURE.

The following incident occurred recently in one of the largest hotels in Calcutta. It appears that about a week ago an officer of the Gordon Highlanders arrived in town on his way home. He had a large sum of money with him—about 2,000 rupees—and the usual jewelry of an English gentleman. These were all locked in one of his trunks. Returning from the dining-saloon to his room the other evening, he was just in time to see some suspicious-looking natives bolting down the corridor. On entering his room he found, on examination, that all his trunks had been forced open, and the contents thrown about; but, strange to say, not a piece of his money was missing nor any item of jewelry. He believed that the burglars were Afridis, and the object of their cupidity a copy of the Koran belonging to the Mad Mullah, which they somehow learned was in his possession. The book was rolled up in an old singlet and thus escaped the searchers, who appear to have tracked the officer from the front.—London Empire.

BASEBALL IN BIBLICAL TIMES.

A member of the Canton Theological School, who is interested in the great national game, has written a thesis on "baseball among the ancients." From this are gleaned the following interesting points which help to establish his contention:

The devil was the first coacher—he coached Eve when she stole first—Adam stole second. When Isaac met Rebecca at the well she was walking with a pitcher.

Samson struck out a great many times when he beat the Philistines.

Moses made his first run when he slew the Egyptian.

Cain made a base hit when he killed Abel.

Abraham made a sacrifice.

The Prodigal Son made a home run.

David was a great long-distance thrower.

Moses shut out the Egyptians at the Red Sea.

—Canton Commercial Advertiser.

A HAPPY QUARTER OF AN HOUR.

Suppose a human life we fix
At years in number ninety-six..... 96
Say in sleep a third goes by,
Away thus thirty-two years fly..... 32
In bouts of sickness, law's delays,
Accidents on trav'ling ways,
A fourth of life's consumed let's say,
So twenty-four years pass away..... 24
Two hours each day in labor's mill,
Or study passed, eight years fulfil..... 8
Double these—as passed between
Griefs and worries—there's sixteen..... 16
Half an hour his dreaming head
Is bent on schemes—see two years fled..... 2
One hour and quarter it appears
The toilet claims, so go five years..... 5
To food and drink each day two hours,
A total of eight years devours..... 8
Let a man one year survive
This total sum of ninety-five..... 95
He's just left with, his whole life through,
One year for what birds each spring do;
That is, each day the Fates him bless
With fifteen minutes' happiness!
—J. J. R., in Westminster Gazette.

AN EXPERIMENT THAT FAILED.

The editor of the "Elmwood Leader" has returned from his junket to Port Arthur, and among other incidents of his trip relates the following, which happened at Beaumont, Texas: "The engine was being repaired, and while we waited a crowd of darkies gathered on the platform. 'The Leader' representative asked one of them what was the proportion of colored to white people in the town. 'About fo' to one,' answered the dusky son of Africa. 'Then, why,' we asked, 'don't you elect a colored mayor, justice and city council?' 'Hold on dar, white man,' he exclaimed, excitedly, 'don't take us niggers for no fools; we tried that speriment befo'. 'Bout two years ago we had a cullud police judge, and the way he socked it to us niggers was a caution. Darky ain't got no business in office—he's too proud and stuck up. Eber since dat we vote for white man.'—Kansas City Journal.

ALMOST A MILE-A-MINUTE ELEVATOR.

Ed H. Benjamin returned the other day from a visit to the big mines on the mother lode in Amador county.

"I took a fast ride," he said, "in the Oneida mine. This company has just put in a new hoisting-gear which beats anything on the Pacific coast, and there are only one or two mines in the country which have machinery to equal it. I came up 1,500 feet in the shaft in twenty seconds. This is at the rate of almost a mile a minute, and by comparison, the swiftest elevators in the tall buildings in San Francisco are slow coaches. When the mine is in regular operation the cage will be run at the speed of thirty miles an hour in lifting ore. This remarkable hoist was manufactured in San Francisco, and seems to embrace no new principle—just a very large drum and the usual cable."—Oakland Times.

SIMPLY BEAUTIFUL.

They tell a story of a certain exquisitely beautiful Washington girl which bears out her rival's assertions that she is as empty-headed and unlearned as she is lovely to look upon. She was dancing once upon a time at Mrs. Leiter's with a young man, and as they waltzed they happened to come near a copy of the Venus of Melos.

"We mustn't dance too near that," said the young man, "or somebody will accuse us of breaking it."

The girl turned her lovely eyes on the statue. "Why," said she, "somebody's broken it already."—Washington Post.

HIGH PRICES FOR BUTTERFLIES.

High prices are paid for butterflies, and some private collections, such as that of the Hon. W. Rothschild, of Tring, Herts., are said to be worth \$500,000 more or less. Some New Guinea butterflies have fetched \$250 apiece. One of the Rothschilds is said to have paid \$1,000 for a papilio, now quite common. The demand for rare specimens has led to dishonesty. The insects are dyed or else wings from one species are fastened to the bodies of other species.

HE WANTED TO KNOW.

Mrs. McLubberty—"Here's some pills, Morty, that Mrs. Hogan was ather sindin' over for yez. She says dhey'll either kill or cure yez."

McLubberty (who is ill)—"Begorra, did she say which they would do foorst?"—Puck.

"I sent you my third order for 'American Women,'" writes Mrs. Doolittle, the sprightly and business-like agent for that book in Springfield, Mo. "I shall now push my work more than ever. I think it a grand b ok, and am proud to be able to put it before the public. Have nearly filled the blank book for 150 subscriptions, and will soon need another."



Cleaning Things

is never pleasant work. The way to have cleaning well done, and to get through it quickly without spending much strength, is to use

GOLD DUST Washing Powder.

Then the cleaning things are laid aside early in the day, and the housewife has time for more pleasant things.

Largest package—greatest economy.

THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,
Chicago. St. Louis. New York. Boston. Philadelphia.



A gentleman who had suffered from gall-stones found himself at a public dinner occupying a seat next to an eminent New York physician, and having in conversation referred incidentally to his affliction, was asked by the doctor if he had ever tried Ripans Tabules. This question amazed the gentleman, and the physician thereupon proceeded to explain to him that the Tabules were a well-known standard prescription for stomach troubles, and that gall-stones are simply bile solidified or turned to gravel. "The constituents of the Tabules," he said, "eliminate bile, and prevent the formation of the stony particles and, furthermore, the use of the Tabules tends to dissolve the softer outer coating of the stones already formed, and these, being reduced in size, pass the more readily out of the system."

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

AMERICAN WOMEN

The very finest Parlor Book published for years at a price within the reach of ordinary homes, while its Literary and Reference Value can hardly be overstated. Edited by the lamented Frances E. Willard jointly with Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. Over 1,400 Half-tone Portraits and Magnificent Full-page Portrait Groupings. Send for our circular, "An Inkling of Its Contents," Specimen Illustrations and Full Particulars, FREE

AGENTS WANTED

Any intelligent man or woman who will follow the carefully prepared instructions for selling "American Women" can handle this book successfully. Those of bookish tastes and who feel at home among cultured people do extraordinarily well with it. Lady Agents like this book most thoroughly, and are realizing large incomes every week. Write immediately, stating book experience (if any), territory desired, etc.

Address MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, Springfield, Ohio.

RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The surest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MEGRIMINE CO., South Bend, Indiana.

WANTED

RELIABLE MEN in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery, and keep our show card tacked up on trees, fences and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment, commission or salary; \$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES, not to exceed \$2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired; write for particulars. THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., BUFFALO, N.Y.

Our Giant Almanac

Farm and Fireside's Giant Almanac and Annual Reference Book (450 pages) is an absolutely reliable authority on political, agricultural, commercial, financial, educational, religious and miscellaneous subjects and statistics in general. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Price, with Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cents. Send orders now.

Our Household.

THE COMPANY WHO TRY.

Yes, I love the little winner,
With the medal and the mark;
He has gained the prize he sought for,
He is joyous as a lark.
Every one will haste to praise him;
He is on the honor list.
I've a tender thought, my darlings,
For the one who tried and missed.

One? Ah, me! they count by thousands
Those who have not gained the race,
Though they did their best and fairest,
Striving for the winner's place.
Only few can reach the laurel;
Many see their chance flit by.
I've a tender thought, my darlings,
For the earnest hand who try.

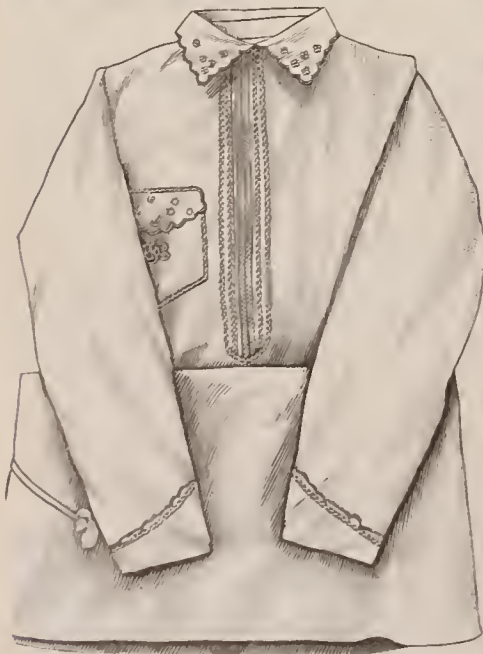
'Tis the trying that is noble,
If you're made of sterner stuff
Than the laggards who are daunted
When the bit of road is rough.
All will praise the happy winners;
But when they have hurried by,
I've a song to cheer, my darlings,
The great company who try.
—Margaret E. Sangster, in Success.

THE RAINY-DAY SKIRT.

READING, as I always do, here and there from the first to the last page of FARM AND FIRESIDE, my eyes became suddenly riveted upon the head-lines of a short article in April 15th issue, 1898, on page 11. There was something riveting itself in the words, "Saluted the Rainy-day Skirt," and I at once stopped to see what the writer thought about sensible skirts that would clear, rather than clean, as they swept the wet and filthy walks of the city or village, or the dust-laden ones, just as they might happen to be, in accord with the prevailing weather.

From this little article my thoughts flew swiftly in the direction of the thousands of women who will visit the exposition grounds of the Trans-Mississippi this summer, and I fell to wondering how many of really sensible ones among them we would find there from day to day intent upon comfort rather than style, and sensibly dressed instead of burdened with the heat and fatigue of the day, and added unto so materially by the all manner of uncomfortable gowns of uncomfortable materials, and long, tiresome, hampering skirts under foot.

Why cannot, or why will not women be sensible in this matter of dress? If it were for comfort we were dressing, none of us would be burdened, either at home or abroad, by long skirts, stiff, heat-retaining, close-fitting corsets, or other apparel that detracted from rather than added to personal comfort. And we are so foolish as to believe that the gentleman in Boston who saluted the rainy-day dress of the woman whom he met upon the street one rainy day, sensibly dressed for the occasion, is the only man in existence who admires a woman in comfortable and sensible costume? Think upon the subject thoroughly and sensibly before you have



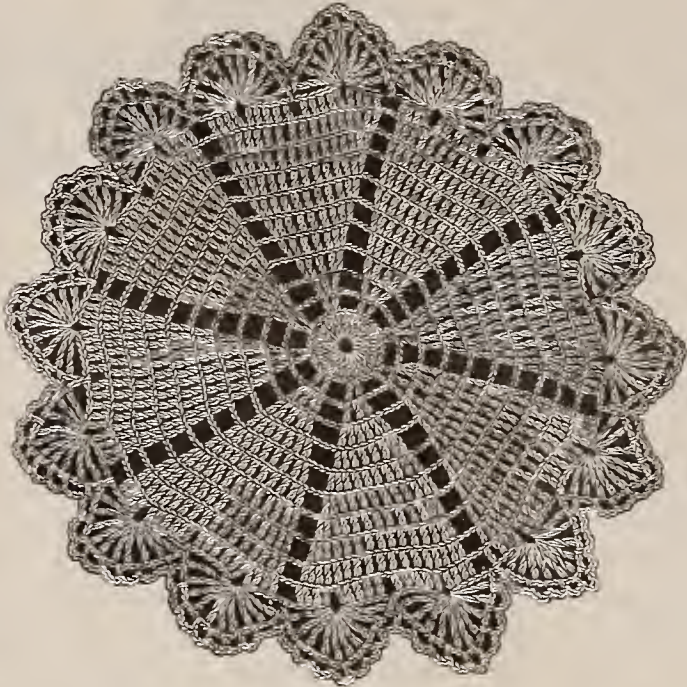
prepared your suit or suits to be worn upon the grounds of the place of the five months' exposition that is to be held at Omaha, Nebraska, from June 1st to and through the last days of October. For, doubtless, hundreds of FARM AND FIRESIDE readers will be there to view the "Wild West's Great White City," or a second "World's Fair."

You will not wish to expend money in

vain. You will come to see, and being perfectly sensible, will not think of coming to be seen. For it is not to be a "dress affair," but purely and simply an educational and a pleasure-taken trip. Prepare for it, then, in a thoroughly practical manner.

"Trains" are again to be "all the rage" and "quite the style," we are given to understand. With many women, if "society" says "trains," why, "trains" it will be. It must be. For to be out of style is worse than to be out of the world. The summer's decree is "trains." But will you venture to wear a skirt with even a semblance of a train upon the street, or upon the exposition grounds, or elsewhere than at home, in your parlor? They are to be worn upon the street, it is said. They are now worn to a certain extent, and bustles are following them, by fashion's decree.

In Omaha there is one of the brightest papers published, edited by a woman who has a mind of her own, and who is never afraid to air her opinion upon any and every subject, whether it shall prove at all popular for her or not. Some days ago she told her readers that trains were coming, and she stoutly objected to women again accepting so miserable a "style"—a style that was neither sensible, becoming nor anything else than ridiculous and unbecoming and uncomfortable. But the following week she says in an editorial: "It seems that, notwithstanding the fact that the 'Weekly' and its editor are unalterably opposed to trains for street wear, they are with us once again." So already Omaha is wearing trains. For our Western cities, be it known (and we are ashamed that our West should be so fool-



ishly following the van), as well as our Eastern cities, are always upon the alert for "the latest styles," and never seem averse to adopting them. For, as said, it were just as well to be out of the world as out of style.

Our Western editress (editor), mentioned above, continues in this strain: "If you expect to be stylish you must have two or three yards added to the back of your skirt before starting for Omaha and the exposition. It will mean discomfort, weariness, heat and all manner of troubles. But no matter. Omaha is stylish, trains are worn on the street, and so we give fair warning—you must wear a train."

"It would be particularly embarrassing for the editor of the 'Woman's Weekly' to meet or know any one at the exposition who was not stylish. So all the readers of this paper are urged to buy a train if recognition is desired. There will be but little shade on the grounds, and it would be convenient to use one hand to carry an umbrella, and it is very natural and graceful to have one hand free to shake hands, or make gestures when arguing the case. But no matter if you are sunstruck; no matter if you never shake hands; no matter what happens, be sure to have that train to carry or to sweep behind. The street-sprinklers will be there and the dust. The train will be elegant. But our dignity must be maintained at all hazards. Be sure to wear a train at the exposition."

This woman-editor strikingly and unfalteringly attacks everything of a ridiculous or contemptible nature. We imagine that she will be largely instrumental in making women sensible in dress for the exposition grounds this summer. For this is not the last that will be heard from her upon the subject of trains. She will keep it constantly before the public, and it is to be

hoped the public will wake up and take a sensible view of the question, and that every woman who attends the exposition this summer will come prepared to enjoy her stay in the West; her stay upon the grounds; her opportunity to learn of and to see many things she has never before seen. She will need a skirt or two of some fabric that will wear well and not show the soil of dust. She will want a sensible hat, a large parasol, comfortable gloves and shoes (tan ones preferable, for actual service), and a few pretty shirt-waists, and a jacket for cool nights and mornings and for damp, rainy times. For it actually rains abundantly in even Nebraska. She will want light-weight underwear, just the necessary changes, a serviceable, cool under-skirt and night-robes that are easily laundered and take little room in her telescope or satchel. She wants time, strength and good health at her disposal. She wants a reasonable allowance of the "all-needful dollars," and a determination to gain from her trip the worth of her money expended in pleasure and every-day comfort and enjoyment. If she is not comfortable she will enjoy nothing, and had better remain at home. Leave trains, bustles and every other encumbrance at home. Dress sensibly, neatly and plainly, and be sure to be provided with "rainy-day skirts"

for the every emergency. If it is not for rainy days you will dress, it will be for dusty ones.

Several young women have been asked what they should wear on the exposition grounds. Almost invariably the reply has been: "A short skirt, shirt-waist, a sailor-hat and tan shoes. I'm going for enjoyment. The dress itself is only a very secondary consideration."

Sensible to the last degree. And we hope that all comers who visit the exposition grounds will conclude to be as sensible. The grounds and the buildings are beautiful, and from all parts of the world are the grounds and buildings filled and adorned with beautiful things.

NEDELLA HAMPTON.

GENTLEMAN'S NIGHT-SHIRT, EMBROIDERED.

There are occasions when embroidery on a man's garment may be admissible. This one is done in pale pink and blue filo, the front plait being drawn-work and brier-stitch.

It is made of very dainty fine cambric, and when the stitches are the work of loving hands one need not to fear to wear it. It is so hard to know what to do to contribute to a gentleman's wardrobe or room. The pillows we illustrate are made of denim, one in scarlet and one in blue.

The scarlet one is worked in outline figures of all a man's belongings—pipes, tobacco-pouch, beer-steen, knife, matches—in black silk; it is finished with a large cord. The blue one is laid out in straight and diagonal lines of coronation braid, and brier-stitches in heavy white linen thread, and red braid with red brier-stitches. Three fleur-de-lis are in the corner, one in red and two in white. These are outlined with red coronation braid, and fancy stitches used for filling them in, in red and white cottons. This is finished with a double ruffle of the goods.

B. K.

"In canvassing for another journal," writes Mrs. C. Hosford, Sharon, Ohio, "I have had repeated calls for Woman's Home Companion. It is very popular, I find, and I wish regular agency for it. Please find my first list—15 subscribers enclosed." The simple truth is our agents furnish as much for fifty cents as the public have been accustomed to pay one dollar for.

FERRIS WHEEL DOILY.

Abbreviations:—Tr, treble; ch, chain; st, stitch; s c, single crochet.

Ch 6, and join in a ring.

First round—Ch 3, then work 23 tr in ring, and join with a s c under 3 ch.

Second round—Ch 3, 1 tr in same place, * ch 5, miss 2 tr, 2 tr in next st; repeat



from * 6 times, ch 3, and join under 3 ch made at beginning.

Third round—Ch 3, 2 tr over next tr, * ch 3, 3 tr over 2 tr of last row, repeat from * six times, ch 3, and join under 3 ch at beginning.

Fourth round—Ch 3, 1 tr in same place, 1 in next st, and 2 in next one, * ch 3, 2 tr in first of 3 tr, 1 in second and 2 in third; repeat from * 6 times, ch 3, and join under 3 ch at beginning of this round.

Fifth round—Like fourth; work 7 tr over 5 tr (2 in first, 1 in each of next 3, and 2 in the fifth).

Sixth round—Like fifth round, working 9 tr over 7 tr in the way as described.

Seventh round—Like sixth round, with 11 tr over 9 tr.

Eighth round—Like seventh round, with 13 tr over 11 tr.

Ninth round—Like eighth round, putting 15 tr over 13 tr.

Tenth round—Like ninth round, with 17 tr over 15 tr.

Eleventh round—Ch 3, 3 tr in next 3 st, ch 2, 5 tr in next 5 st, ch 2, 5 tr in next 5 st, ch 2, 4 tr in next 4 st; * ch 3, 4 tr over next 4 tr, ch 2, 5 tr in next 5 st, ch 2, 5 tr in next 5 st, ch 2, 4 tr in next 4 st; repeat from * all around joining a 3 ch with a s c under 3 ch at beginning of this round.

Twelfth round—* ch 1, then work 10 long tr with ch 1 between each tr under ch 2, ch 1, fasten with a s c under next ch 2, ch 1, 10 long tr with 1 ch between under next ch 2, ch 1, fasten with a s c under ch 3; repeat from * all around.

Thirteenth round—1 s c under ch 1 between the first 2 long tr, * ch 4, 1 s c under the second ch 1, repeat from * seven times, then work a s c under the second ch 1, in next scallop, and finish this and all



the rest of the scallops like the first one. By adding more rows after the tenth one the doily can be made as large as desired.

This design makes a pretty tidy. Ribbon may be drawn through the eight spaces. This little doily is made with No. 50 Glasgow lace thread.

MRS. J. R. MACKINTOSH.

Pulmonary Consumption is a dread disease; but most of those who think they have it, really suffer from Bronchitis; and Bronchitis Jayne's Expectorant will cure.

DEMONSTRATORS.

Among the newer occupations is that of a demonstrator. New business methods have created new occupations, and this one of demonstrator is fast becoming an important one, and is not yet overcrowded; in fact, two reliable firms have made the statement recently that they would be glad to add several to their staff of workers if only the right people could be found.

Demonstrators, as a rule, are women, because the greater part of the goods which are shown to the public through their work are goods used principally by women in the household.

To make a successful demonstrator a woman needs a pleasant disposition, spotless character, fair education, a faculty for adapting herself to circumstances, and a goodly amount of sound common sense.

Young girls are filling some of these positions acceptably and receive a good salary, but the best demonstrators, and consequently the best-paid ones, are those women who have had practical experience in housekeeping and are not yet too old to make themselves personally attractive. By the last term I do not mean particularly beauty of feature, but that poise of self-command which can be gained only by experience in life's triumphs and defeats. For such a woman the demonstrator's life has no hidden temptations.

The duties of such positions differ greatly with the different articles represented. The pay at first is not large, but a woman who has proved her adaptability for this work has little trouble in securing from ten dollars a week upward. Where one is

back to Boston was paid, in addition to her salary, which was a generous one.

These places are usually permanent when satisfaction is given, and a person is promoted from one class of work to another as rapidly as they are fitted for advancement, and every higher grade of work commands an increase in salary.

Some firms are introducing their goods by means of free lectures given in the large cities, and this is an excellent opening for women fitted for the work.

Now, how to obtain such a position. If you know any manufacturer near you who employs such people for such work, apply to him. If he does not need your services he may be able to tell you to whom to apply. If you know of firms at some distance, but in a city where you have friends with whom you could stop, write to them, or it is possible your grocer may be of assistance to you in finding a position. Do not hesitate to take anything that is offered you, if it will afford living wages, for you may be sure if you are diligent and adapted to the work there will be abundant opportunities for better work. Do not cherish the idea that you will not enter upon work that will not give you an opportunity to distinguish yourself at once. The world will not take the trouble to seek you out, but show the world that you are competent to good work and it will be ready to take you up. And by the world is meant those people whose attention you crave.

INEZ REDDING.

KNOTS.

The four knots her illustrated—the four-in-hand, club, Ascot and sailor's—are to be used very extensively this season by the fair sex. They are very simple of construction, and

look extremely well when the scarf or tie is used in conjunction with the stiff white linen collars.

EMMA LOUISE HAUCK ROWE.

A CHAPTER ON STRAWBERRIES.

SERVING STRAWBERRIES.—An inviting way to serve the berries is to have them of a very perfect kind, free from dirt and sand; then put them in a colander and sprinkle them with water to freshen, leaving the hulls and stems on, if possible. Arrange in glass dishes with bits of ice chopped over them, and set in the ice-chest till wanted. Serve with powdered sugar.

STRAWBERRIES IN GELATIN.—Put to soak a package of gelatin the same as for lemon jelly, using the berries instead of the lemon, and half a pound of English walnuts, halved; put into a mold to cool. Make the day before using.

STRAWBERRIES AND SPONGE-CAKE.—Take three eggs, one and half cupfuls of sugar, two of flour, one half cupful of cold water, one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, one half teaspoonful of soda. Beat sugar and eggs together until very light, then add the water; beat well, then add the flour, into which you have sifted the cream of tartar and soda. Bake in long tins in a quick oven. While this is baking whip a pint of cream, put it on the ice to keep it firm, and when your cake has become almost cold place it on a platter and spread thick with the whipped cream and the strawberries in layers.

STRAWBERRY TARTS.—Use a rich puff-paste, bake to golden-brown in small, scalloped pans, dust with powdered sugar, fill with berries and dot with whipped cream. This is a nice dish for Sunday evening.

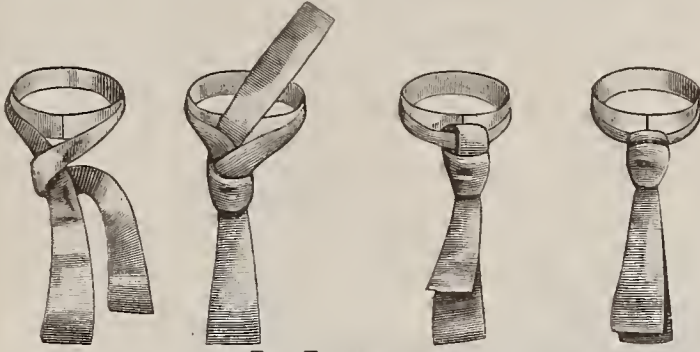
BOSTON STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE.—Make a plain cup-cake batter, bake in two

round tins, quite thick. Spread with a generous layer of berries which you have cut in half, then cover them with whipped cream, then another layer of berries, and dust with powdered sugar. This excellent shortcake should be eaten with forks.

BELLE KING.

VEGETABLES BETTER THAN MEDICINE.

If children were taught to eat the different kinds of vegetables in their seasons, there would be less need for a doctor's bill. Our Heavenly Father knew what we had need of, hence, created vegetables.



THE FOUR-IN-HAND

More than that, he supplied different kinds of fruits and vegetables for the different localities suited to the peculiar needs of the people.

We had vegetables in India that we were very fond of, and which seemed to be just what our system required, but I feel certain we would not relish them here at all.

We were told before we went that we would greatly miss our American apples, but we did not find this to be the case. The tropical fruits were all we cared for there. We enjoyed the strawberries there as here, and found them very effective in case of biliousness.

Beets, carrots and parsnips are very nutritious, and should be used much more often than they are.

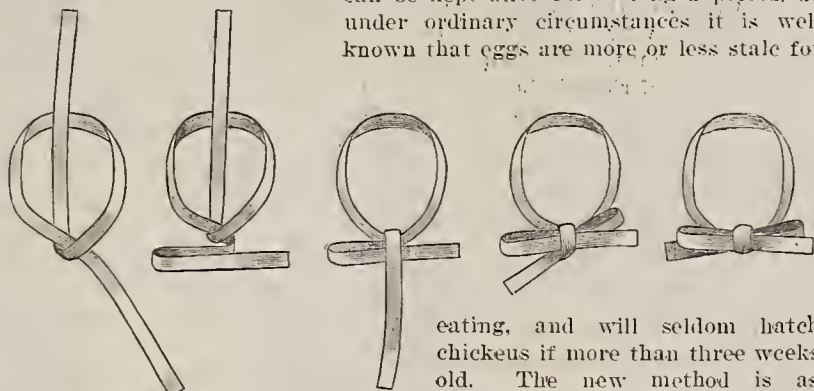
Is the liver torpid? Use tomatoes and dandelion greens freely.

Nearly all of the ripe fruits, especially the grape and apple, act directly upon the liver.

ELLA BARTLETT SIMMONS.

PRESERVING EGGS.

A novel method has been discovered for preserving eggs perfectly fresh for twelve months and more, not only for eating, but for hatching purposes. It may appear incredible, says the correspondent, to many poultry-keepers that the germ of an egg can be kept alive for so long a period, as under ordinary circumstances it is well known that eggs are more or less stale for



THE CLUB.

eating, and will seldom hatch chickens if more than three weeks old. The new method is as follows: Wrap each egg the day it is laid in a small square of news-

paper, and pack these eggs side by side in a box, layer on layer, until it is full. After the box is fastened down it must, firstly, be stored in a dry, cool place, and secondly, be turned upside down at least three or four times a week. This simple process of turning will preserve the eggs perfectly fresh for twelve or even eighteen months. A neighbor of mine has for several years hatched out a lot of chickens from eggs so stored and turned, twelve, fifteen and some eighteen months after being placed in the box.

GRAND LODGE, I. O. O. F. MEETING, WASHINGTON, C. H., OHIO, MAY 16-19, 1898.

For the above occasion, Agents of the C. H. & D. Ry., in Ohio, will sell tickets at rate of one fare for the round trip, tickets good going May 16th to 19th inclusive, and good returning up to and including May 21st, 1898. Call on any C. H. & D. Ticket Agent for information.

Jacob Fletcher, Hartford, Conn., writes: "I took Peerless Atlas from one of your agents last week, and never spent a dollar better in my life." Mr. Fletcher, by this trifling investment, also got a year's subscription for WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION free. Every purchaser of Peerless Atlas gets either that magazine or FARM AND FIRESIDE free. Our Peerless Atlas agents have wonderful success. Write us for agency particulars.

As the Diamond Is among precious stones even so is **WHEATLET** among healthy and sensible people.

Just as the diamond never depreciates in value and brilliancy, just so, **Wheatlet** keeps up its high standard of quality and excellence. You cannot improve on the diamond. Try and then judge for yourself as to

WHEATLET

It is easily and perfectly digested and is not only the ideal breakfast food, but also makes excellent desserts and fancy dishes. If your grocer does not have it, send us his name with your order, we will see that you are supplied. The genuine made only by

FRANKLIN MILLS CO.
LOCKPORT, N. Y.

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PERFECT SYSTEM BEST METHOD

Our latest catalogue of Cut Paper Patterns contains more than 200 styles for Spring. It will be sent free to any one on application. By the use of these patterns any woman can become her own dressmaker and do all the sewing for her family.

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FARM AND FIRESIDE,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.



CUT PAPER PATTERNS

SOLD! UNDER A Positive Guarantee

to wash as clean as can be done on the washboard, even to the wristbands and collar of the dirtiest shirt, and with much more ease. This applies to Terriff's Perfect Washer, which will be sent on trial at wholesale price. If not satisfactory, money will be refunded. Agents wanted. For exclusive territory, terms & prices, write **Portland Mfg. Co., Box 4, Portland, Mich.**



DON'T BE HARD UP \$2400 A YEAR EASY.
Mr. Tassel made \$1500 first 5 months. Mr. Muncy, of Tex., \$1250 first two hours, \$200 first month. Mr. Smith, of Colo., \$295 first month. Mrs. Howard, \$59.50 in one week. Mrs. Heard, \$400. Miss Nesne, \$205. Agents all making money, showing, selling and appointing agents for our patented Quaker Folding Bath Cabinet. LET US START YOU. Any one willing to work, can make \$20 to \$40 a week easy. The Quaker is the greatest seller and money-maker for agents known. Just what every body needs. No more bath tubs or Dr. bills. Guaranteed best made. Lowest price. Wt., 5 lbs. Easily carried. We are reliable. Capital \$100,000. Largest Mfg. Co. Write us anyway for New Plan, Terms, Pamphlets, Testimonials, etc., FREE. **G. WORLD MFG. CO., Cincinnati, O.**

★ CASH OR CAMERAS ★

WE PAY CASH, or give \$6.00, \$4.00 or \$1.00 Cameras to bright boys and girls who will help us introduce into every household **SPENCER'S BLUING PADDLES.** You can sell **IN ONE HOUR** 12 "Paddles" and earn a Camera or big cash commission. Your full address on postal card will bring 12 "Paddles" by mail and booklet explaining all. **SPENCER B. P. CO., 31, STATION D, CHICAGO.**

WANTED

BY women, each with an infant or young child, situations in the country (general housework, plain cooking, etc.). Small wages expected. Apply **STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION, 105 East Twenty-second Street, New York City.**

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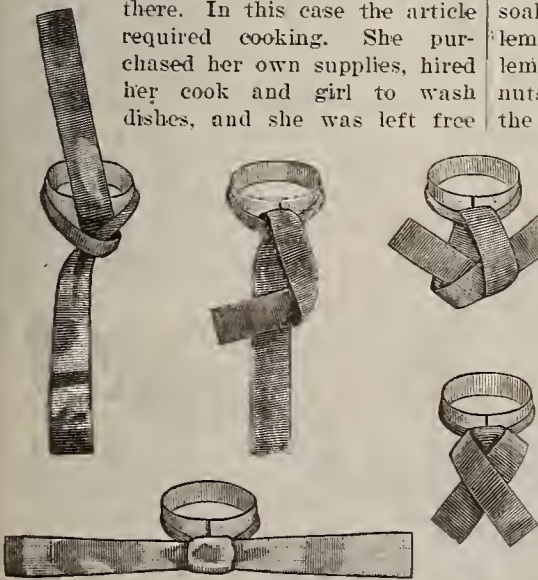
WAR MAP OF CUBA New double reversible War Map of Cuba and the World. Wall or pocket, 25 Cents. Agents Wanted. Circulars free. **A. C. SHEWEY, 415 Dearborn Street, CHICAGO.**



THE SAILOR.

required to travel, the expense is usually met by the firm, and often one is enabled to visit many cities and meet exceedingly pleasant people in connection with the work. Many firms employ ladies to go from store to store and show their special line of goods to the patrons of each store. An agent makes all arrangements with the merchant and sees that all necessary supplies are forwarded. This agent usually visits a store while the demonstration is going on, so that little care rests upon the demonstrator, she being required only to show the goods, explain their merits, give out samples and make sales. For work of this class the hours are generally from nine or ten o'clock in the morning until six at night, with possibly two or three hours Saturday evening, when in stores where a large amount of business is done on that evening. An hour is always allowed at noon for dinner.

Experienced demonstrators are usually employed by all large firms who exhibit at county fairs, food fairs, etc. The pay for this work is excellent. One young lady who had proved herself an adept was sent to Washington to represent her firm in a fair which was being held there. In this case the article required cooking. She purchased her own supplies, hired her cook and girl to wash dishes, and she was left free



THE ASCOT.

to explain the merits of the goods. As the exhibition was not open until ten o'clock in the morning, she was enabled, by rising early and using her noon hour to good advantage, to see a great deal of Washington without neglecting her duties in any way. Every expense from Boston

Our Household.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATIONS.

THE young people living on farms and in country villages have, as a rule, very little money to spend as they please. They would feel it a hardship to pay even one dollar a year as a fee to an association for the improvement of the village or country road, and especially as there would likely be several persons in each family who would like to become members if it did not cost too much. It is better, therefore, to put the annual dues at twenty-five cents each, for it is far better to have one dozen members at a quarter a year than four at one dollar apiece, paradoxical as it may seem, for the dozen will disseminate the improvement idea through more families; there will be greater pride taken about more home premises; more paint and whitewash used; more rickety fences and outbuildings repaired, and that is exactly the sort of feeling these improvement associations arouse; and when such work is done about homes it makes the inmates so much more willing to extend the improving influence abroad.

Therefore I say take small dues and all the labor you can get—many people will give money and labor both. Happy the place where such sentiment prevails. Enthusiasm and willing labor will carry you further than many other towns with much money. And when you organize, get everybody from the farms to join you; you have mutual need of each other.

But organize at once, and right now, this spring—it is just the right time, and lay out your first campaign for order and beauty with all the wisdom you can command, borrowed or native; for upon your first year will depend the respect and good feeling which will keep your society alive. Whatever you undertake carry through as far as possible. Make a general outline of the things you expect to do in the next five years, and look ahead and see if they will be harmonious when finished. If it is a cinder path for bicycles or for side-walks on the principal streets, see to it that you first make a good foundation drainage, and leave culverts for the natural runaway of heavy storms, and keep up this work until a path is made to every house in the village. You have no idea how the social side of your town will improve in the winter months.

If it is putting the grounds about your railway station in order, see to it that the trees, flowers and sod are kept green and thrifty. By appealing directly to the division superintendent of the road you can nearly always get assistance for this part of the work, and they are apt to keep a station where such interest is shown in their property much smarter-looking with fresh paint and other accessories. But don't leave the things you plant to wither and make you a reproach and by-word to every passenger who travels by that line.

If it is the making of miles upon miles of shady drives, see to it that the trees are of good varieties and well planted, look after them and at once replace any which die. On one road plant oaks; on another, maples; on another, beeches; on another, willows, and so on, and in time those roads will come to be known by the names of the trees which shade them.

There is scarcely a town in the United States which cannot take up this latter work; usually the trees can be had by asking and going to the timber, or woods, after them. Roads so shaded are easier kept in order, the roots of the trees preventing gullies from being cut in the roads. Think of the comfort and pleasure of coming into town over such roads; it would of a verity make business better through the sluggish summer months, and it would make your village known for many miles away.

Another work that requires little or no money is putting old cemeteries in order. Usually one of the dreariest places and sights in the country is the graveyards, and small credit it is to the people who care so little for the resting-place of their ancestors. One day's work by willing hands will rid out weeds and brambles, straighten fences and old tombstones and for putting in order generally, and you will, I am sure, feel an access of self-respect and satisfaction on the completion of the work.

Do things like these which cost scarcely

any money and not nearly so much time as you think, and see how your village life will be changed, both in appearance and in its social aspect. Be careful in your improvements not to arouse the antagonism of the older, more conservative class; by all means get them into the association; they will be far more apt to approve the innovations, but do not stop for their disapproval; they must be won over slowly.

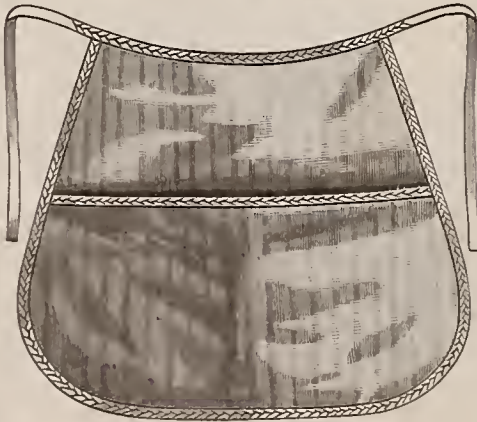
If you decide to buy a plot of ground for public play or park grounds, then you will want some money; but as I told you in another paper on this subject, it is perfectly legitimate work for which fairs, bazaars, excursions and the like may be held, and much, if not all, of the work of putting such a place in order can be done by the same willing hands that improved the village. You can make rustic bridges yourself; you can lay out pretty walks and flower-beds; you can build a dancing-platform and shelter-tents for sudden storms, and you can see that a good road or path is made to your pleasure-place. You can make watering-troughs along the wayside



for thirsty horses and cattle, one of the most humane works ever undertaken by human beings for their mute companions. You can organize clubs for the study of birds and wild flowers native to your section, and take measures to prevent their extinction.

If when clearing out new land the owners had left specimens of each variety of fruit, tree or shrub found on the land, they would have added both to the beauty and value of their farms. Some years ago while living in West Virginia my father had some land cleared, and gave orders for fine specimens of everything found on it to be spared. Omitting the snakes, the result otherwise was very surprising to our Northern eyes, but not so to our neighbors in that country of rich timber. We found three varieties of oaks, two of maple, poplar, wild cucumbers, wild cherry, walnut, redbud, butternut, sassafras, wild grapes, and from a neighboring hillside we transplanted a persimmon-tree and wild service-tree, and we also found beech-trees in plenty. From the redbuds in the spring until late autumn there was always something on that hillside to charm the eye.

So if ruthless hands had grubbed up all



these lovely gifts of God, do you restore tenfold. And when cleaning out fence corners do not consider the goldenrod and wild asters as weeds, remember—

"Dear Plebian, but for thee
And thy lover goldenrod
Lonesomer the road would be
Which the country folks must tread;
And each little maid and master
Would regret thee, purple aster."

So let them remain to cheer us; let the American ivy clamber along your fences and in the autumn wave its scarlet banners to us, and plant morning-glories along the fence rows. There are not half morning-glories enough in the world.

And springs! Cattle are allowed to trample to mortar and defile springs which the old, pagan Greeks would have built

temples over and dedicated to some nymph or goddess. If you have one of these blessings on your farm, have troughs for your cattle, but cover the spring with a shelter of some kind and hatch it with straw or bark and put seats within, plant vines about it and see what a favorite Sunday walk it becomes for the family. I wish right here to pay a tribute and plead for more trees of my favorite blossom and perfume, crab-apple; the odor is far sweeter than violets and the flower prettier, and my only regret is that it flowers but once a year. I often think when reveling in beauty and odor how the Japanese would revel in this tree. Its compact, symmetrical growth would please their odor-loving souls, and they would paint its flowers and celebrate its perfume in madrigals. They would hold festivals in its blooming season, much would be written of it, and good Americans would spend much money to see it and to bring one home with him; but the American sees nothing in it but a thorny, wild tree, the timber of which is not valuable, and it is cut down as though it bred pestilence.

If a single farm in one county had a specimen of every tree, bush, shrub, herb or wild flower native to that section of the state, it would become famous all over the United States just as soon as that fact became known. Botanists would travel far to study there; and think of a family raised under such intelligent surroundings—how much they would know of nature, and how in after years their thoughts would turn to the old home.

Farming is just as much a science as electricity, and when boys realize this and are encouraged to experiment with soils and the like, and their surroundings are such that they fear no comparison with town life, there will be fewer boys leave them for the cheap wages in cities.

JESSIE M. GOOD.

HALF-DIAMOND LACE.

Abbreviations:—Tr, treble; ch, chain; st, stitch; d c, double crochet.

First row—Ch 66; turn.

Second row—Tr in sixth of ch, 3 tr in following 3 st, ch 2, tr in third st from last tr, (ch 1, tr in second st from last tr) four times; (ch 5, d c in third st from last) four times. Ch 5, tr in third st, (ch 1, tr in second st) four times; (ch 2, miss 2 st, 3 tr in next 3 st, keeping the last st of first 2 tr on the needle till the third is made, and then working all off together) three times. Ch 5, d c in same st with last tr; turn.

Third row—Ch 3, 13 tr in loop formed by 5 ch, 4 tr under first and second 2 ch, 3 tr under last 2 ch, tr over tr; (ch 1, tr over tr) four times; ch 1, tr in second st of first 5 ch, (ch 5, 2 d c under next 5 ch) three times; ch 5, tr in fourth st of last 5 ch, (ch 1, tr over tr) five times; ch 2, 4 tr over 4 tr, ch 2, tr over tr; turn.

Fourth row—Ch 5, 4 tr over 4 tr, ch 2, tr over tr, (ch 1, tr over tr) five times; ch 1, ch 1, tr in second st of first 5 ch, (ch 5, 2 d c under next 5 ch) twice; ch 5, tr in fourth st of last 5 ch, (ch 1, tr over tr) six times; ch 3, d c in third tr, (ch 5, d c in third tr) seven times; turn.

Fifth row—Ch 7, 2 d c under first 5 ch, (ch 5, 2 d c under next 5 ch) six times; ch 5, 2 d c under 3 ch, ch 2, tr over tr, (ch 1, tr over tr) six times; ch 1, tr in second st of first five ch, ch 5, 2 d c under next 5 ch, ch 5, tr in fourth st of last 5 ch, (ch 1, tr over tr) seven times; ch 2, 4 tr over 4 tr, ch 2, tr over tr; turn.

Sixth row—Ch 5, 4 tr over 4 tr, ch 2, tr over tr, (ch 1, tr over tr) seven times; ch 1, tr in second st of first 5 ch, ch 2, d c in fourth st of same 5 ch, ch 5, d c in fourth st of next 5 ch, ch 2, tr in fourth st of same 5 ch, (ch 1, tr over tr) eight times; ch 3, 2 d c under first 5 ch, (ch 5, 2 d c under next 5 ch) seven times; turn.

Seventh row—Same as fourth row to tr over tr, then (ch 1, tr over tr) nine times; ch 1, tr under first 2 ch, ch 1, tr under 5 ch, ch 1, tr under next 2 ch, (ch 1, tr over tr) nine times; ch 2, 4 tr over 4 tr, ch 2, tr over tr; turn.

Commence at first row, following given directions until the clusters of 3 tr are reached; the first cluster of 3 tr under 3 ch of scallop; next two clusters under next two 5 ch. Join scallops at end of second and third rows.

MARY E. BURNS.

CLOTHES-PIN APRON.

This will appeal to the woman who does her own housework. It is made of ticking, bound with common white tape and brier-stitched in blue. It is neat and much handier than a basket for the pins. B. K.

Enameline

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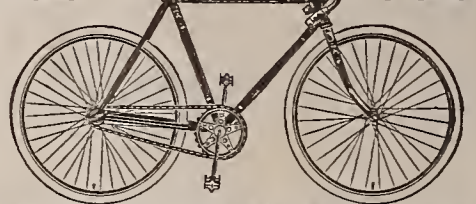


Applied with a cloth.
Gives a quick polish without dirt.

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OAKWOOD High-grade '98 model as per illustration. Flush Joints, 1 1/2 in. Tubing. One-piece Cranks. Large Star Sprockets. Best high-grade Tires. Padded or Hygienic Saddle. None better at any price. Equal to or better than wheels retailed by others at \$75. Our special price **\$32.50**

ARLINGTON '98 Model. Flush Joints, 1 1/2 in. Tubing. Two-piece cranks. Arch Crown. A. & W. or Arlington Tires. A Good Honest Wheel and Best in the World for the money. Others retail wheels no better for \$60. Our special price **\$24.50**

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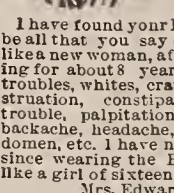
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Cures Female Weakness—Makes Walking and Work Easy.

Endorsed by Every Physician Who Has Used It. Adjustable to Fit all Figures. Simple in Construction. Comfortable.

Ninety-eight per cent of its wearers pleased. Thousands of them write like this:

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I have found your Body Brace to be all that you say of it. I feel like a new woman, after complaining for about 8 years with womb troubles, whites, cramps at menstruation, constipation, kidney trouble, palpitation of heart, backache, headache, pains in abdomen, etc. I have not had a pain since wearing the Brace. I feel like a girl of sixteen.

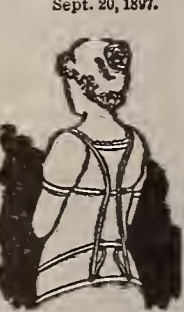
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your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$3.50. Guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.
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Sizes, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 inches waist.



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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



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Sizes, large, medium and small.



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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7257.—LADIES' COMBINATION DRAWERS, CORSET-COVER AND SKIRT. 10 cents.
Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7363.—LADIES' BASQUE. 10c.
Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



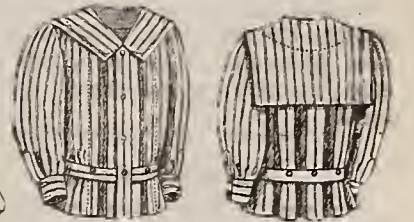
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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42 and 44 in. bust.
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Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40 and 42 in. waist.



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Sizes, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 years.



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No. 6459.—LADIES' AND MISSES' SUN-BONNETS. The two patterns for 10c.
Cut in two sizes—Ladies' and Misses'.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

HOPE.

There is a balm in Gilead,
A cure for every woe;
And to those springs of life and peace,
O children, let us go.

'Tis there we'll find redemption,
And recompense for toil;
Come, hasten to those waters,
They are flowing free for all.

Arise, and let us hasten,
The day is wearing on;
There have many gone before us,
Let us join the busy throng.

Then we shall shout hosannas
To the King of Kings on High;
We will join the heavenly chorus,
We will meet them by and by.

E. W. H.

FACTS ABOUT SOUTH AMERICA.

THE chief executive of the Argentine Republic is required by law to be of the Roman Catholic faith.

There are more Protestant churches in Buenos Ayers than in any other city of South America.

Bolivia has an official whose title is minister of foreign relations and worship.

The African dromedary has been acclimated in the southern part of Bolivia.

Cotton of three different colors, the wax-tree and the cork-tree are found in Bolivia.

Brazil claims the largest number of navigable rivers of any country in the world.

Brazil was the last country on the American continent to abolish slavery.

Italians comprise the largest number of emigrants to South American countries.

The church of Rome is the official church of most of the South American republics. In Brazil, however, a citizen who is in any way bound by religious vows is ineligible to office.

Under the new constitution of Brazil civil marriage is the only one recognized by law. The ceremony is performed without a fee.

The national college of Brazil at Rio de Janeiro, has more than six hundred students.

Sixty-five million dollars is the average value of the Brazilian coffee crop.

Rubber is the principal product of the Amazon valley. The annual output exceeds 33,000,000 pounds.

Milreis is the name of the Brazilian coin that corresponds to our dollar.

We import from Brazil alone more than 300,000,000 pounds of coffee annually.

Chili is a strip of land 2,600 miles long. Its greatest width is 200 miles, while 40 miles represents the minimum figure.

The finest emeralds known to commerce come from the province of Bayace in Colombia.

There is but little manufacturing or farming carried on in Colombia. Cattle-raising is the almost universal industry.

In 1888 the government of Costa Rica granted a concession for the construction of a canal uniting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. The concession endures for ninety-nine years, at the end of which time the canal becomes the property of the government.

SEWED UP IN A BAG.

A young lady at school became a somnambulist, says a writer in "Pearson's Weekly." She rose from bed and walked in her sleep. I was taken into consultation and suggested various expedients, such as sedatives, sleeping-draughts and network to put around the bed at night. All, however, has been tried in this instance, and all in vain. I then thought for a little, and hit upon the following plan: I directed her night-dress to be sewed up at the foot so that it formed a large bag, and then I had the sleeves lengthened so much that each sleeve, after going around the body, reached the front, where it met the other sleeve and was securely fastened to it. The whole dress was loose, but the long sleeves prevented the hands from being used to get rid of the dress; while from the end being sewed up the feet could not be used in progression. At the same time the dress freely permitted the wearer to roll about from side to side in her slumber. Night came and our charge retired to bed in her new-fangled night-dress, with which she was amused. The usual hour for the night walk came. Her attendants were strictly enjoined not to stir. She raised herself up as usual in the sitting posture,

then stood upright and commenced to walk. The second step was a trip, for the foot behind held the bottom of the bag in which she stood. She stumbled, fell forward and awoke, and was put back into bed, where she soon fell asleep. And now comes a curious change in the phases of the affliction. She would still arise from bed each night, but made no further attempt to walk as before. She would stand erect, and, keeping the knees perfectly rigid, spring straight upward from the floor. This she would continue until thoroughly fatigued, and then retired quietly to bed to sleep. I am glad to add the case ended in a perfect cure.

THE KAISER'S NICKNAMES.

There is a story told in the English "Illustrated" in connection with the German emperor and his nicknames. In the course of conversation at a regimental dinner at which the Duke of Connaught was present, the kaiser said: "They call me the 'Traveling Kaiser,' don't they? I wonder if that's the only nickname I've got?" Prince Henry laughed, and Maj. von Plessen, unable to control himself, joined him. "What is it?" asked the emperor. "Do you know of any other nickname? If so, out with it." The major mumbled something about his respect, but the emperor said: "Well, if you don't want to do it, to please me, I command you to speak!"

The major then confessed that the emperor was known among the common soldiers as "Alarm Fritz," on account of his habit of suddenly, in the middle of the night, rousing the garrison of the town in which he might be staying. The emperor laughed heartily at this, and Prince Henry remarked to his brother: "Well, you have a similar name in the navy. The boys call you 'Gondola Billy,' for gondoling about, as they call it, on your ships constantly in the summer and being everywhere and anywhere on the boats."

"Well," said the emperor, "those are three fine nicknames; but inasmuch as all of them paint me as a busy man, I rather like them."

THE DECAY OF POLITENESS.

The reason why politeness used to play such a part in the world was no doubt in great measure that the avenues to success were everywhere controlled by people who all paid attention to breeding, and even to such little niceties of behavior as correct speech and pronunciation and even articulation; hence it was impossible to win their favor without imitating them and at least simulating an interest in breeding. Every one has known men who passed all their lives for "gentlemen of the old school," who really began their career as office boys, and had acquired their manners by studying and trying to copy those of their employers. Now the precise opposite of this is the case. Since the possession of large amounts of money has become the test of social leadership, and since it has become possible for large numbers of wholly uneducated people to acquire this open sesame over night by "striking oil," "a corner," or a "deal," the avenues to success are really in the hands of the newly rich, and what do they care or know about manners? They hustled or bragged or lied or cheated their way into wealth, and they, too, in their turn will be imitated. Hence, many a young man who would formerly have aimed at making himself polite now applies rudeness to the same end. It is a far easier method, for a supply of rudeness is given to most people by nature.—New York Press.

HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS.

On the first and third Tuesdays in May and June, 1898, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway will sell round-trip excursion tickets (good for 21 days) to a great many points in South and North Dakota and other western and southwestern states, at practically one fare for the round trip. Take a trip west and see what an amount of good land can be purchased for very little money. Further information as to rates, routes, prices of farm lands, etc., may be obtained on application to any coupon ticket agent or by addressing Robt. C. Jones, Travelling Passenger Agent, 40 Carew Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

"I have been successful beyond my most sanguine expectations," writes the lady who is selling "American Women" in combination with WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, in Van Buren county, Michigan. "The selling qualities of your book and magazine are certainly remarkable. The box of books I now order are needed immediately. You may expect a still larger order next time."

Dr. Swift's

RHEUMATIC AND GOUT CURE

Only Rheumatic Cure in the World Guaranteed to Cure or Money Refunded.

\$1.00 a bottle,
3 bottles \$2.50
with Guarantee.

The lamed and crippled of America are rejoicing at the advent of Dr. Swift, the famous physician, whose world-renowned cure for Rheumatism is hailed both in this country and Europe as the only true specific for this awful disease in all its forms which annually maims tens of thousands of our best men and women.

The coming of Dr. Swift's discovery has changed suffering to joy, and myriads of grateful patients are testifying for the new system which is revolutionizing medical practice.

Dr. Swift's Rheumatic and Gout Cure speedily cures inflammatory, sciatic, gonty and muscular Rheumatism and banishes Headache, La Grippe, Lumbago, Kidney Diseases and Neuralgia; also sharp, dagger-like pains and aching in bones and muscles.

THE CHICAGO MEDICAL TIMES SAYS:

"Dr. Swift's Rheumatic and Gout Cure has taken the profession almost by storm wherever it has been introduced, for the reported cures are astonishing to a degree. Old chronic cases that seem to have baffled the best practitioners readily yield to the famous physician's discovery, which is the only one that actually does cure rheumatic complaints almost every time."

"From all parts of the country, come reports that Dr. Swift is a public benefactor and entitled to a place in history with Pasteur and Koch."

Dr. Swift's discovery is a chemical union of coal-tar products, saline phosphates, etc., and is more powerful than opium, morphine or narcotics, but without a trace of either, and is absolutely harmless—children and invalids can take it safely.

Ask your druggist or send \$1.00 for a bottle, or \$2.50 for three bottles, 30 days' treatment, prepaid with guarantee. Book free.

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Sufferers who are in doubt as to their disease may write freely to Dr. Swift, Monadnock Bldg., Chicago, Ill., and their cases will be properly diagnosed free of charge, so they can go to their druggists and thus save doctors' fees.


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To introduce the new Easy Threading, Gold Eyed Needles we give a handsome, open face, Gold Plated, Stem Winding, fine timekeeping Watch, and Gold Plated Chain; if you sell a small lot among friends, We mail Needles at our risk. When sold, send money and we mail Watch or send 25 pieces of plated Table Ware, Air Rifle and 1000 Shots, or Camera, or keep half the money instead of a present. Write you will return what you don't sell. Give your name (Mr., Miss or Mrs.) so we can tell are you a Lady or Gent. Address on Postal Card, TRUST NEEDLE CO., 529 E. 116th St., New York.

LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE!

Greatest wonder of the earth. Makes hours of fun. You can make the weak as strong as a lion, or the bully as timid as a child. You can cure disease or bad habits, cause others to "come" to you, love & obey you. Every wish gratified. I guarantee success. Lesson postpaid, 10 cts. Address, Prof. J. R. HERRIN, Box 89, Pesotum, Ill.

STOP SMOKING!

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood. 1,500 stores lost manhood. 400,000 cases cured. Buy in health, nerve and pocket book. NO-TO-BAC from your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

EARN A SOLID GOLD PEN.

A few hours work will procure you a Solid Gold Pen like the above, with Pearl Handle, in Handsome Plush Case. Sell 11-2 dozen Everlasting Sachet Powder at 10 cents each. Every lady a ready purchaser. No money required in advance. Send full name and address, and we will forward Powder, postpaid, with large Catalogue of other handsome presents. Oxford Tea Co., 156 Oxford St., Providence, R. I.

WE WANT A MAN

in every city or township to look after our business; steady work and liberal pay the year round. Some men have realized OVER \$100.00 FROM ONE WEEK'S WORK. Places for a few ladies. Write at once to J. W. JONES CO., SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

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in working for me. Ladies and gentlemen, this is your great opportunity. OUT-FIT FREE. Are you ready? Workers write at once to E. HANNAFORD, Springfield, Ohio.

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Send 2c. stamp for Sample Book of all the FINEST & LATEST Styles in Reveled Edge, Hidden Name, Silk Fringe, Envelope and Calling Cards for 1898. WE SELL GENUINE CARDS, NOT TRASH. UNION CARD CO., Columbus, Ohio.

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Earn a 100c Bicycle, Gold Filled Watch or Camera taking orders for Tea, Coffee, Baking Powder, Extracts, Toilet Soap, Etc. FOR ILLUSTRATED PREMIUM LIST AND FULL PARTICULARS ADDRESS: NATIONAL CONSOLIDATED CO., 92 State St., Chicago, Ill.

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a week and expenses paid men to sell cigars; experience unnecessary. W. L. KLINE CO., Dept. F., St. Louis, Mo.

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Date your Letters, Bills, etc., and save time, money and mistakes; instantly adjusted to any date for 10 years in advance; also has extra words Paid, Received, etc. Sent postpaid, with catalogue of 3,000 bargains for 15c, 2 for 25c, \$1.25 doz.

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and want all to have the same opportunity. It's VERY PLEASANT work and will easily pay \$18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. Mrs. A. H. Wiggins, Box 49, Lawrence, Mich.

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If afflicted with SORE EYES USE

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OF

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10 CENTS

This History and Map will be a great help to teachers, pupils and the public in general in following the war for the independence of Cuba, for how many are acquainted with the history and geography of Cuba? Perhaps not one in a thousand, yet the newspapers teem with dispatches from this theater of bloody war.

HISTORY OF CUBA

Our history is a highly interesting and valuable descriptive, statistical and historical account of Cuba, the "Gem of the Antilles," from the date of its discovery up almost to the present hour. The causes of the wars between the native Cubans and Spanish are given special space and attention, as reliable information on this subject is very much in demand just now. The cities and people of Cuba, also the climate, surface, soil, mines, products and leading industries, as tobacco, sugar, etc., receive attention. The text, written by Lieutenant E. Hannaford, is written in an entertaining style, and while the facts are full and clear, yet care was used not to get the matter on any one point so long as to be tedious. It is a concise yet complete, accurate and up-to-date historical account of all the principal events in the history of Cuba, and throws a flood of light over the whole of the Spanish-Cuban question.

MAP OF CUBA

Our map of Cuba is 14 inches wide by 22 inches long, and printed on fine map-paper in several colors. It was drawn from government surveys and new and important information from reliable sources. Every caution was exercised to get it accurate, complete and up-to-date. It was engraved with extra care, with lettering, boundaries, railroads, etc., brought out very distinctly, thus making it especially satisfactory to consult. This new map of Cuba shows clearly all the provinces, mountains, railroads, cities, towns, rivers and harbors. With this map any school-boy can locate the trochas, forts and battle-fields as they are reported by the newspaper correspondents. It also shows the southern part of Florida, the location of the Bahama and other islands round about Cuba. This map will not only satisfy the demands of the most careful student of history and geography, but delight everybody.

As a special accommodation to our readers we will send this History and Map of Cuba for 10 cents.

POSTAGE PAID BY US.

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Smiles.

SETTING CUBA FREE.

There were coattails wildly flapping in the circumambient air,
Here and there some one was sprawling on the floor;
There were cries of "Order, order, order, order," from the Chair,
And a hundred timid members scampered wildly for the door!
It was not a Deadwood soiree, nor a cowboy jamboree,
Nor a Cripple Creek discussion, nor a Dawson City brawl;
The House of Representatives was setting Cuba free—* * * that was all!

Hairy fists were fiercely shaken under bleeding noses there;
Cries of "Liar!" "Coward!" "Demagogue!" were banded to and fro;
A little "gent" from Georgia hurled a volume through the air,
Which a "gent" from Pennsylvania dodged by ducking very low!
Oh, the people who had gathered in the galleries to see,
Fled in terror or hysterically groveled on the floor!
The House of Representatives was setting Cuba free—* * * nothing more.

There were whiskers of all colors flying through the atmosphere,
And yells of terror mingled with the howls and hisses there;
Gentlemen called one another names that can't be printed here,
And hair and rumped neckties fluttered wildly in the air!
It was not a Deadwood soiree, nor a cowboy jamboree,
Nor a Cripple Creek discussion, nor a Dawson City brawl!
The House of Representatives was setting Cuba free—* * * that was all!
—Cleveland Leader.

SHOT THE WAY THE DOG CAME AT HIM.

THE other day Ole Hanson had trouble with a bellicose dog that belonged to his neighbor, a Russian by the name of Havva Drenkovitskey. The Swede shot the dog as soon as he discovered that he was not friendly to him, and the sequel found lodging in a justice's court. When Ole was propounded interrogatories by the attorney for the prosecution he evidenced a sense of justice in framing replies that is rarely witnessed.
"What sort of a gun did you have, Mr. Hanson?" inquired the attorney.
"Es var two-hole shotgun."
"Double-barrel?"
"Yas, das et."
"Well, don't you think you could have scared him away?"
"Aye might ef aye had not bane scare so lak deckens maesal."
"Why didn't you take the other end of the gun and scare him away?"
"Val, master lawyer, vy dedn't de dog com for maer oder end first ef hae vant to do det vay?"
The lawyer is still wondering if there wasn't extenuating circumstances connected with the shooting.—Denver Times.

COMING TERRORS.

"Bridget, who is that at the door?"
"It's a poor man, mum. He wants something to ate."
"If he's another refugee driven out of Spain by the war, tell him there's nothing left for him. We've already fed eleven ex-Consuls this morning."

IN PLAIN UNITED STATES.

"Say, Mame," said Maud, as she placed on the marble slab the glass which had previously contained lemon phosphate, "who's Dou Carlos?"
"Why, don't you know? He's the great Spanish pretender."
"But what's a 'pretender'?"
"A 'pretender'? Why, a 'pretender' is what people in this country call a 'bluffer.'"—Washington Star.

A MATTER OF TASTE.

If a man really prefers to wear a collar that costs 25 cts. or even 15 cts. and pay a laundry to transform it into a hideous thing of torment and tatters—why—he can do it, of course. But think of it! A linen (?) collar will stand the average laundry from one to three times. If it endures it three times that makes it wearable four times in all. Suppose it costs 15 cts.—a low price—when new, the three launderings at 1½ cts. each brings the cost of four times wearing to about 5 cents a time. Meantime it has shrunk or stretched or acquired a saw-tooth edge or the buttonholes have torn out and much anguish of spirit has resulted. Four Linene collars would have looked as well, felt better and cost just half as much, to say nothing in saving in trouble.

ABSENT-MINDEDNESS.

Miss Gambrel—"Isn't it funny? Lucy and I are always forgetting our ages."
Visitor—"You ought to put them down."
Miss Gambrel (absent-mindedly)—"Yes; we did cut them down several times, and probably that's the reason we are growing so forgetful."
—Judge.

FISHING MADE EASY.

Papa—"Spring is here, my son. Have you noticed how everything is coming up out of the ground?"
Bertie—"Have I? Well, I guess! This is the first time in a dog's age I've got some decent bait without having to dig like a nigger for it."

EXPLAINED.

Lawyer—"Where were you when the trains collided?"
Witness—"In the rear car."
Lawyer—"Then how could you see that the engineers were at their posts directly after the accident?"
Witness—"Didn't the collision telescope the cars? Well, I saw through the telescope."

MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORSE.

Father (severely)—"My son, this is a disgraceful state of affairs. The report says you are the last boy in the class of twenty-two."
Henry—"I might have been worse, father."
Father—"I can't see how."
Henry—"There might have been more boys in the class."—Boston Traveler.

LITTLE BITS.

Money's not everything, but the things it isn't won't worry you.—Puck.
When a man begins with, "What I am about to say will be said in kindness," he means to make himself disagreeable.—Life.
"By the way, did old Biggars tell you about my telling him some unpalatable truths?"
"He didn't put it that way. He said you told him things that were pretty hard to swallow."
—Indianapolis Journal.
"I see that glass bricks are coming into general use," said the popular science boarder.
"They won't invade the gold-brick field," said the cheerful idiot. "They are too easily seen through."—Indianapolis Journal.

Lady (in railroad train on windy day)—"Dear me! I can't get this window up."
Gentleman (behind)—"I would assist you, madam, but I presume the railroad company has glued the windows down to prevent the loss of patrons by pneumonia."—New York Weekly.
They were talking of the civil war the other day, and the older members of the company had compared reminiscences.
"Which side were you on during the war, Mrs. B?" asked the kittenish young girl of the party, turning to a pretty little woman who had been born in '62.
"I was in arms on the Southern side," was the quick reply.
"Say," said the frizzled man who stuck his head through the door, "do you know anything about war?"
"I guess I do," said the editor.
"Well, I want you to tell me how many Spanish flags a feller ort to burn to show his patriotism sufficient to indicate that he's did enough for the cause without goin' to war."—Cincinnati Enquire.

The following is how a writer in the "Clarion" analyzes the music of the bagpipes: "Big flies on window=72 per cent; cats on midnight tiles =11½ per cent; voices of infant puppies=6 per cent; grunting of hungry pigs in the morning =¾ per cent; steam-whistles=3 per cent; chant of cricket=2 per cent."—Glasgow Evening Times.

Rosy McShane was a fairly good maid-of-all-work, but, like most of her kind, she was woefully slack in caring for her own room. Her mistress was ill for two or three weeks, and on recovering she went up to Rosy's room, and found it in a state of dirt and disorder beyond description. Very indignant, she called Rosy, and said: "Rosy, I don't see how you can stand it to have your room like this!"
Smiling pleasantly, Rosy made reply: "Ah, thin, ma'am, but I was iver a patient person."
—Harper's Bazar.

"I object to that motion!" exclaimed Broncho Bob, at a meeting of the City Council in Crimson Gulch.
"What motion?" inquired Rattlesnake Pete, who was in the chair for the first time.
"The one just made by Teepee Tom."
"Well," was the answer, "I didn't see the motion referred to, but the objection is sustained on general principles. In a gatherin' where there are so many seven-shooters, all in easy reach, gentlemen cannot be too careful about how they make motions."—Washington Star.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure "Drunkennes or the Liquor Habit" with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

RHEUMATISM

CURED BY

5 DROPS

Suffered 45 Years With Rheumatism. NOW CURED.

[TRADE MARK] Water Valley, Miss., Dec. 31, 1897.
Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., Chicago, Ill.:—I have suffered forty-five years with rheumatism but could get no medicine to cure me until I got your "5 DROPS." I had suffered for a year with catarrh in my head before I used your medicine "5 DROPS," and I could not hear out of my right ear, but when I took the "5 DROPS" I was cured of the catarrh and my hearing was restored. It is a blessed thing for me that I ever heard of your medicine and used it, for I am so improved that I almost feel young again though I am eighty-two years old.
T. W. WILLIAMSON.

Peotone, Ill., Dec. 23, 1897.
Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., Chicago:—Enclosed please find draft for which send some more of the "5 DROPS." I have not used a bottle yet and my rheumatism is all gone, and all those that use it speak highly of it. I know it is the best rheumatism cure I have tried in the last 15 years.
Respectfully yours, WM. YOUNG.

"5 DROPS" cures Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Dyspepsia, Backache, Asthma, Catarrh, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Nervous and Neuralgic Headaches, Heart Weakness, La Grippe, Creeping Numbness.
Many thousands of similar letters received. The merits of "5 DROPS" is undisputed with those who have tried it. We are certain that a trial bottle will convince anyone, and for another 30 days we will send a sample bottle, prepaid, for 25 cents. Large bottles of "5 DROPS" (300 doses,) \$1.00; 3 bottles, \$2.50. Not sold by druggists, only by us and our agents. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

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167-169 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.

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HOW TO REDUCE IT
Miss M. Nobles, Reoline, Wis. writes: "Your remedy reduced my weight 54 lbs. and I think it is the simplest and grandest remedy in the world to reduce superfluous fat." It is purely vegetable and can be prepared at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. Sanuple box and full particulars in plain envelope sent free to anyone. It costs you nothing to try it.
MALL CHEM. CO., BOX, St. Louis, Mo.

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The Farm and Fireside's Giant Almanac and Annual Reference Book (450 pages) is an absolutely reliable authority on political, agricultural, commercial, financial, educational, religious and miscellaneous subjects and statistics in general. Price, with Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cts. Send orders now.

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Dr. B. F. Bye's Oils for cancer and tumors are a painless cure. Most cases are treated at home without the services of a physician. Send for book telling what wonderful things are being done. Gives instant relief in cancer sufferings. If not afflicted, cut this out and send it to some suffering one. Dr. B. F. BYE, Box 246, Indiana, Pa., Ind.

NO-TO-BAC

It rests with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood, makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book. 1000 boxes sold, 400,000 cases cured. Buy NO-TO-BAC from your own druggist, who will vouch for its efficacy. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1, usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money. Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM

Cleanses and beautifies the hair. Promotes a luxuriant growth. Never Fails to Restore Gray Hair to its Youthful Color. Cures scalp diseases & itching. 50c. and \$1.00 at Druggists.

ABBOTT'S EAST INDIA CORN PAINT.

Corns, Warts and Bunions cured without pain or the use of a knife. A simple application does the work. Lippman Brothers, Wholesale Agents, Savannah, Ga.

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CURED TO STAY CURED
Correspondence invited. No charge for advice as to curability. P. Harold Hayes, M.D., Buffalo, N. Y.

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Sure Cure at home: at a small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. No return of Rupture or further use for Trusses. A complete radical cure to all (old or young) easy to use, thousands cured, book free (sealed). DR. W. S. RICE, Box 17, SMITHVILLE, N. Y.

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Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. BOTOT, Augusta, Maine.

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MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Our Miscellany.

A DUTY is no sooner divined than from that very moment it becomes hindering upon us.—Amiel's Journal.

THE woman who has a silk petticoat does not neglect to take the world into her confidence.—Boston Transcript.

"ER MAN," said Uncle Eben, "ginirally makes er great mistake when he waits for er rise in de mabket, 'stid o' gittin' up early hiss'f."—Washington Star.

"I WAS to have married the countess, but her whole family was opposed to the match." "And the countess?"

"She is one of the family."—Fliegende Blätter.

FIRST tramp—"I hear they are building a new jail, with all modern improvements."

Second tramp—"That won't do us no good. You'll need a pull to get in there."—Fliegende Blätter.

"WHEN I hear my neighbors playing 'The Star Spangled Banner' on the piano at seven o'clock in the morning," said a citizen, "I can't have any doubt about the prevalence of patriotic feeling."

THE rate of the growth of human hair varies. In some cases it has been known to exceed two inches per month. The average for man and woman is about half an inch every thirty days.

"IT is the glass too much that hurts," said the moderate user, "but who can tell which is the glass too much?"

"The glass too much," said the moderate buyer, "is the one you have to buy for the other fellow."—Indianapolis Journal.

MRS. YOUNGLOVE—"John, do you know that you haven't kissed me for a week?"

Mr. Younglove—"Yes, darling, I was just waiting to see how long it would take you to notice it."

John, it will be observed, had his presence of mind right with him.—Cleveland Leader.

MR. GREEN—"Now, I'm going to tell you something, Ethel. Do you know that last night, at your party, your sister promised to marry me? I hope you'll forgive me for taking her away!"

Ethel—"Forgive you, Mr. Green! Why, of course I will. That's what the party was for."—Punch.

"Herewith find the fifty-third order that I have sent you for Peerless Atlas," writes Mr. James K. Reeder, from Terre Haute, Ind. "The new map of Alaska and the Klondike is an attractive feature and greatly facilitates sales. Occasionally I find some one who does not know the difference between People's Atlas and Peerless Atlas, but I can show him in one minute, and almost invariably he gives the preference to the Peerless at one dollar, including WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION one year."

THE importance attached to the new industry of beet-sugar manufacturing and refining in some parts of California may be judged of by the following remarkable dimensions, as published, of the new establishment now being constructed at Salinas, in that state: Main building, 582 feet long, 102 feet wide and five stories high, the materials consisting of 3,500 tons of steel, 4,000,000 bricks and 800 squares of slate; boiler-house, 559 feet long, 68 feet wide and 22 feet high, the contents comprising nearly 1,000,000 bricks, 12 boilers, 4 economizers, 2 steel smoke-stacks 216 feet high, 13 feet in diameter, each stack with base weighing 1,000 tons; machine-shop and carpenter-shop, 559 feet long, 40 feet wide, 22 feet high, and containing about 600,000 bricks; water required to keep mill running, 13,000,000 gallons a day; will consume about 1,200 barrels of oil daily—that is, in twenty-four hours—or its equivalent in wood or coal; and will cut 3,000 tons of beets a day, or twenty-four hours. The expected daily sugar product of this vast establishment is in the neighborhood of 450 tons.—New York Sun.

NOT A COURT OF LAST RESORT.

Old settlers in Central Illinois still relate with gusto the story of a man who was arrested on a charge of murder many years ago and taken before a newly elected country squire for a preliminary examination. The trial was held in a backwoods school-house. The prisoner had employed an attorney to defend, but the evidence was clear and positive. Several witnesses, in fact, had seen the crime committed.

The justice of the peace, after hearing the testimony and listening patiently to the speech of the lawyer, looked sternly over his spectacles at the prisoner, and addressed him thus:

"John Simpson, the evidence is all ag'in you. Ther' hain't the shadder of a doubt but what you committed the murder. John Simpson, stand up!"

The prisoner complied with the order.

"The sentence of this court," proceeded his honor, "is that you, John Simpson, be took out to the woods back of this school-house to-morrow mornin' at half past nine o'clock and hung by the neck until—"

"Your honor," interposed the attorney for

the defense, thunderstruck, "you are not sentencing the prisoner to death, are you?"

"That's edzackly what I'm doin'." The sentence of this court, John Simpson, is that you be took out to the woods back of this school-house to-morrow mornin' and hung by the neck—"

"But, your honor," gasped the lawyer, "you have no right to do that! There is no law for such an extraordinary proceeding—"

"Sit down, sir!" thundered the squire. "This court don't need any instructions from you. This court knows what it's doin'." John Simpson, stand up ag'in. The sentence of this court—"

But a way out of the appalling difficulty had suggested itself to the prisoner's attorney. He sprang to his feet and interrupted the court again.

"Your honor," he said, "one moment! We have the right to appeal this case, haven't we?"

The squire scratched his head.

"Yes," he said, slowly, "I reckon ye kin take an appeal."

"Well, your honor, we appeal to the Supreme Court of the State of Illinois."

The prisoner's life was saved for the time, but it was a narrow escape.—Youth's Companion.

ZOAR'S FALL CAUSED BY A RIBBON.

"Do you know," said a Cleveland man who has had considerable to do with the Zoarites during the past eight or ten years, "how the breaking up of the Zoar community began?"

"I'll tell you. It was all on account of a piece of ribbon. One of the things that the people of Zoar foreswore when they settled there was gaudy raiment. They dressed themselves in somber colors, and ornaments were unthought of. As long as that plan was adhered to Zoar was safe; but when people got to going there from the cities, to board at the hotel, the beginning of the end was inaugurated."

"It was the law of the community that all the earnings of the people were to be turned into the common treasury, and that nobody was to have a cent to spend for his personal benefit or pleasure. The trustees did all the buying, and everything was owned in common."

"After awhile, however, the girls who worked at the hotel began to get presents of money from visitors, and one of them, one day, took a few cents out of the change she had received and bought a piece of ribbon."

"It was like introducing the measles. It was catching, and presently the other girls began to come out in glorious colors."

"The deadly work had been done. The trustees were powerless. Girls who were not fortunate enough to be assigned to work at the hotel went away—out into the world, and it was not long until the boys began to follow them."

"That was the manner in which Zoar fell. The people there to-day are nearly all old, and for that reason the community cannot last. The property is to be sold, the receipts will be divided, and Zoar will be but a memory of what might have been but for a piece of ribbon."—Cleveland Leader.

THE KEYSTONE RIVETER.

It always happens that when the farmer is busiest then is the time that his harness always breaks. A buckle comes loose, a brace splits or tears or the keeper is torn from its place. Under ordinary circumstances that means a trip to the harness-makers for repairs, but the Hartman Mfg. Co., of Ellwood City, Pa., has put into the hands of the farmer a little machine called the Keystone Riveter, with which he can repair his harness as easily as he can nail a board on a fence. This riveter will enable the farmer to make all his leather harness if he wishes. Any one interested in this low-priced machine can get a circular by sending to the Hartman Mfg. Co., of Ellwood City, Pa.

QUEER YANKEE WAYS.

A western newspaper has come into the possession of a high-caste Chinaman's diary of travel in America and has printed a translation. The critic says the Americans consume enormous quantities of whisky. "They hurry with everything, instead of resting like civilized persons; they never enjoy themselves by sitting quietly on their ancestor's graves. They kick balls violently without pay, and even sit down to the same table with women, while the American dancing consists of spilling around to the most discordant music." Furthermore, "In good weather Americans wander in the fields waving long sticks senselessly in the air."—Albany Times-Union.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 220 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.

A LESSON IN SHARPSHOOTING.

A Texas military company was out on the range recently practicing at rifle-shooting. The lieutenant in command suddenly became exasperated at the poor shooting, and seizing a gun from one of the privates, cried sharply: "I'll show you fellows how to shoot!" Taking a long aim, a strong aim, and an aim all together, he fired and missed. Coolly turning to the private who owned the gun, he said, "That's the way you shoot!" He again loaded the weapon and missed. Turning to the second man in the rank, he remarked, "That's the way you shoot!" In this way he missed about a dozen times, illustrating to each soldier his personal incapacity, and finally hit the target. "And that," he ejaculated, hauding the gun back, "is the way I shoot."—Los Angeles Times.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

A ducky was suing a railroad company for damages, caused by the killing of his cow. There was a strong suspicion that he had purposely driven the cow on the track.

"Did you not drive the animal in front of the engine?" asked the lawyer for the railroad.

"No, sub, I didn't."

"You'll swear you didn't?"

"Yes, sub—ten times over!"

He won the case, but as he pocketed the check for his money some one overheard him say:

"Dat wuz a narrow escape I had, I tell you; but I tol' him de truth. It wuzn't me what driv' de cow in front of de engine, but my brother-in-law; he de one done it! I mighty glad dat lawyer stop when he did, kase he wuz right in de fambly."—Atlanta Constitution.

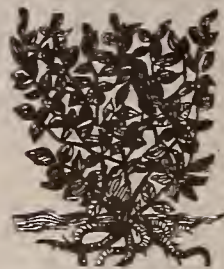
ONE IN A THOUSAND.

"I don't see anything remarkable about the man."

"That's because you don't know him. I've been with him almost constantly for the last eight weeks, and not once has he undertaken to explain to me the duty of the president and congress at this time."—Chicago Post.

"I like selling 'American Women,' on account of its being so attractive and useful. Its low price is another feature much to the agent's advantage." So writes one of our agents in British Columbia, and he adds: "Your map of the Klondike and the routes to it, in Peerless Atlas, are excellent. Send 20 more Peerless quick as possible."

A New Shrub that Cures Kidney and Bladder Diseases, Rheumatism, etc.—Free.



THE KAVA-KAVA SHRUB (Piper Methysticum.)

DISORDERS of the Kidneys and Bladder cause BRIGHT'S DISEASE, RHEUMATISM, GRAVEL, PAIN IN THE BACK, FEMALE COMPLAINTS, URINARY DISORDERS, DROPSY, etc. For these diseases a POSITIVE SPECIFIC CURE is found in a new botanical discovery, the wonderful KAVA-KAVA SHRUB, called by botanists, the *piper methysticum*, from the Ganges river, East India. It has the extraordinary record of 1200 hospital cures in 30 days. It acts directly on the Kidneys and cures by draining out of the blood the poisonous Uric Acid, Urates, Lithates, etc., which cause the diseased conditions.

Rev. W. B. Moore, D.D., of Washington, D. C., testifies in the *Christian Advocate* that it completely cured him of Kidney and Bladder disease of many years' standing. Hon. R. C. Wood, of Lowell, Ind., writes that in four weeks the Kava-Kava Shrub cured him of Kidney and Bladder disease of ten years' standing, and Rev. Thomas M. Owen, of West Pawlet, Vt., gives similar testimony. Many ladies also testify to its wonderful curative powers in disorders peculiar to womanhood.

That you may judge of the value of this *Great Specific* for yourself, we will send you one Large Case by Mail **FREE**, only asking that when cured yourself you will recommend it to others. *It is a Sure Specific and cannot fail.* Address, The Church Kidney Cure Company, No. 409 Fourth Avenue, New York City. Mention this paper.

BOYS AND GIRLS.

We mail at our risk 10 packages of Blueing, (needed in every family), also 10 Gold plated Klondike Nugget Ladies' Stick or Gents' Scarf Pins, to sell among friends at 10c. each. When sold you send money and we send free an open-face Gold plated, stem winding, fine timekeeping Watch and Chain, or you keep half the money instead of Watch. We take back what you don't sell. Address on Postal Card. **TRUST CONCERN.** 529 E. 116th St., New York.



OUR GIANT ALMANAC

The Farm and Fireside's Giant Almanac and Annual Reference Book (450 pages) is an absolutely reliable authority on political, agricultural, commercial, financial, educational, religious and miscellaneous subjects and statistics in general. Price, with Farm and Fireside one year, 50 cts. Send orders now.

RUBBER GOODS

For Men, Women and Children. Address, The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co., 147 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free.

PREMIUM AND CLUBBING OFFERS

Below we list a number of premiums which have been fully described in previous numbers of Farm and Fireside. We guarantee each and every premium to give entire satisfaction or money refunded. Our catalogue describing them in full will be sent free to any one.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Samantha at Saratoga," - 35c. "Samantha at Saratoga" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside one year and "Samantha Among the Brethren," - 35c. "Samantha Among the Brethren" given free for club of **two** subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Set of Six Tablespoons - \$1.25 Set of Six Tablespoons given free for a club of **six** subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Repeating Globe Air-rifle, - \$2.00 Repeating Globe Air-rifle given free for a club of **eight** yearly subscribers. Sent by express, charges collect.

Special price of Farm and Fireside one year and "Life of Lincoln," - 45c. The "Life of Lincoln" given free for a club of **three** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Life of Washington," - 45c. The "Life of Washington" given free for a club of **three** subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "The Arts of Beauty," - 35c. "The Arts of Beauty" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "100 Photographic Views," 35c. "100 Photographic Views" given free for a club of **two** subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Universal Dictionary," - 40c. "Universal Dictionary" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside one year and the Oxford Bible, - \$2.00 The Bible given free for a club of **ten** yearly subscribers to this paper, or for a club of **five** yearly subscribers and \$1 cash.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Prodigal Son Picture," - 40c. "Prodigal Son Picture" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Silver-plated Berry-spoon, - 50c. Silver-plated Berry-spoon given free for a club of **two** subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "Standard Cook Book," - 35c. "Standard Cook Book" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and picture, "Christ Before Pilate," 40c. "Christ Before Pilate" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Set of Six Teaspoons, - 75c. Set of Six Teaspoons given free for a club of **four** yearly subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Butter-knife and Sugar-shell, 50c. Butter-knife and Sugar-shell given free for club of **three** subscribers.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and Shoe Cobbling Outfit, - \$2.00 The Shoe Cobbling Outfit given for a club of **ten** subscribers. Sent by freight, charges collect.

Special price of Farm and Fireside and "People's Atlas," - 40c. "People's Atlas" given free for a club of **two** yearly subscribers.

Any offer may be accepted and the name can be counted in a club. Renewals and new subscribers, including a club-raiser's own subscription, may be counted in a club.

Postage or expressage paid by us, if not otherwise specified.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

\$50 MACHINE FOR \$20

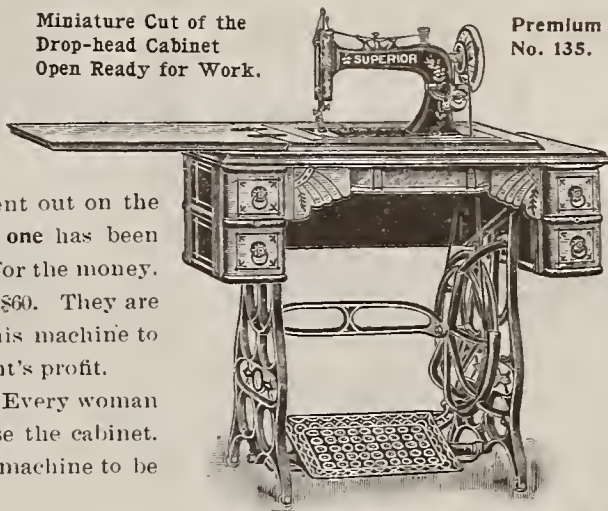
AND FARM AND FIRESIDE ONE YEAR

DURING the past four years we have sold over 1,000 Superior Sewing-machines. Every one was sent out on the condition that if it did not give entire satisfaction it could be returned at our expense. Not one has been returned, and not a single complaint received. Why? Because the Superior is the best machine ever sold for the money. Many have written us that it is better than machines sold by agents in their community for from \$50 to \$60. They are manufactured and guaranteed for five years by the largest sewing-machine company in America. We sell this machine to our readers for about what county agents would have to pay for it at wholesale. We save you all of the agent's profit.

We now offer the Superior Machine in a Drop-head Cabinet, which is giving a bigger bargain than ever. Every woman who sees the Drop-head Cabinet will not have any other. It is easy to raise and lower the head and close the cabinet. When closed, the head is in a dust-proof case, out of sight and away from the children. We guarantee the machine to be full standard size, same as agents sell for \$50 to \$60, and made of the very best material and finely finished.

Miniature Cut of the
Drop-head Cabinet
Open Ready for Work.

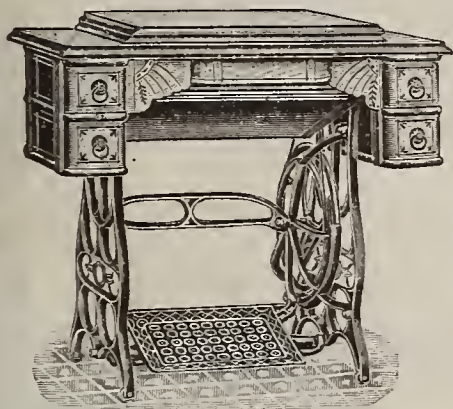
Premium
No. 135.



Sent on Trial=We Pay the Freight=May be Returned at Our Expense

FREE FOR A CLUB

We give this Sewing-machine FREE for a club of 100 yearly subscribers to FARM AND FIRESIDE; or for a club of 75 and \$5 cash; or for a club of 50 and \$10 cash; or for a club of 25 and \$15 cash. **WE PAY THE FREIGHT.**



Miniature Cut of Drop-head Cabinet Closed.

The Arm is exceedingly high, long and strong. Under the arm of the Superior there is a clear space nine inches long and almost six inches high, or nearly fifty-five square inches of clear space, allowing the bulkiest work to be stitched and handled with ease. The Superior is positively a high-arm machine—as high as any \$60 family sewing-machine made in America. This we absolutely guarantee.

The Woodwork is of the highest grade. The Drop-head Cabinet is really a beautiful piece of furniture. There are four side drawers, with a long, sliding center drawer, which is lined with velvet. Machines finished in either oak or walnut, as desired. State which you want, or we will send oak.

The Head is beautifully decorated in gold and bright colors. All of the working parts, hand-wheel, screws, plates, etc., are highly polished and nickel-plated. The bed-plate is firmly hinged and let in flush with the cabinet work. The stand is strong, light and graceful. The treadle and drive-wheel are hung on adjustable steel centers. The stand is fitted with oil-cups and nickel-plated castors.

The Needle is straight, has a large shank, and it is impossible to set it wrongly or for it to become fast in the bar. The needle-bar runs in hardened steel bushings, packed above and below with felt, holding the oil. The Superior makes the double lock-stitch.

If parties who live west of the Rocky mountains will write us, we will give them the lowest price possible to their address.

If the women of America could only see and know this machine, the sewing-machine agents would have to quit business, for no woman would then pay more than \$20 for the finest machine that the agents have to offer.

The Automatic Bobbin-winder winds the bobbin as evenly as a spool of thread. The Tenison Liberator is perfection itself. The Take-up is absolutely automatic in its actions at all times and on all kinds of work. The Hand-wheel is adjustable, enabling the operator to wind the bobbin without running the machine.

The Shuttle is positively self-threading, of large size and cylindrical in shape. The Feed is double, extending on both sides of the needle, is positive in its action and handles the heaviest work easily. Can be easily and quickly adjusted.

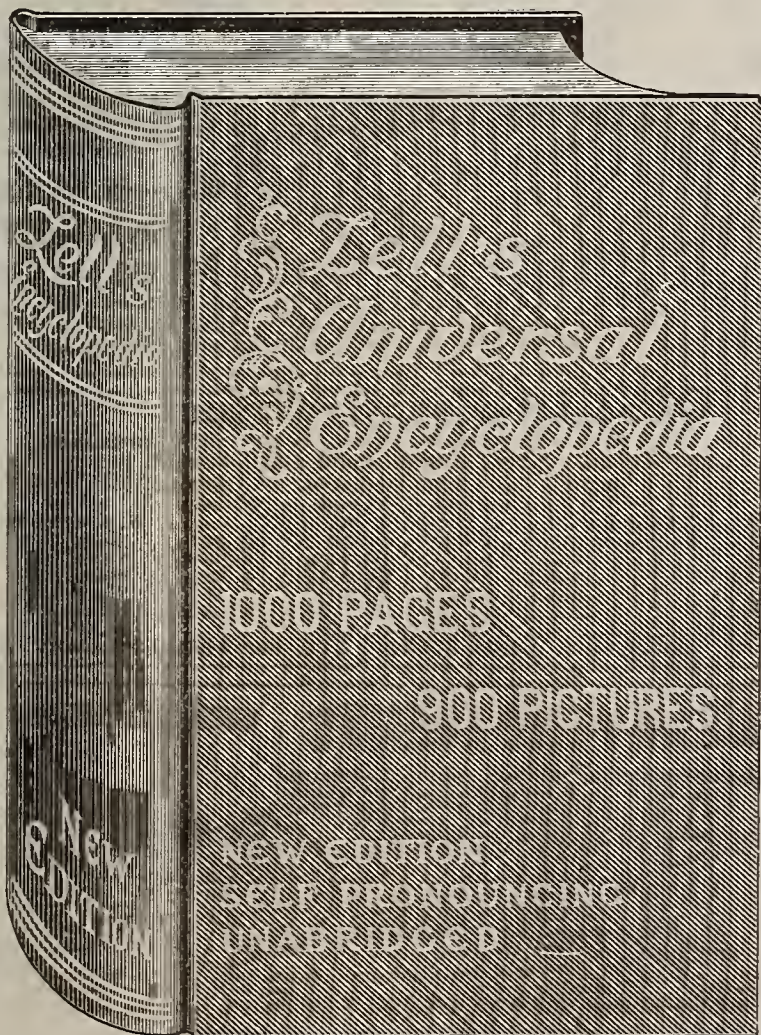
The Attachments supplied without extra charge, are of the latest design, interchangeable, and constructed to slip on the presser-bar. They are made throughout of the best steel, polished and nickel-plated, and there is not a particle of brass or soft metal or a single soldered joint about them. The attachments consist of Ruffler, Tucker, Binder, Braider-foot, Under-braider, Slide-plate, Shirring Slide-plate, four Hemmers of assorted widths, Quilter, Thread-cutter, Foot-hemmer and Feller.

The Accessories include twelve Needles, six Bobbins, Oil-can filled with oil, large and small Screw-drivers, Sewing Guide, Guide-screw, Certificate of Warranty, good for five years, and Instruction Book.

Upon receipt of \$20 we will send the Superior Machine by freight, charges prepaid, to any point east of the Rocky Mountains. If, after 30 days' trial, it is not entirely satisfactory, it may be returned to us by freight at our expense, and we will refund the \$20.

ZELL'S ENCYCLOPEDIA

has long been acknowledged to be one of the best books of the kind on the market. Recently it was thoroughly revised and brought up to date. In this short space it is impossible to give any idea of its completeness and value as a work of reference for the home and school-room. It is a great bargain and sure to please. It weighs nearly 3 pounds, is 2 inches thick, 6½ inches wide and 9½ inches long, contains 1,000 pages and 900 pictures.



35,000 TOPICS
WITH THE CORRECT PRONUNCIATION OF THE 35,000 TERMS AND PROPER NAMES TREATED.

Are treated in this NEW and UP-TO-DATE edition of the world-famous Zell's Encyclopedia. It is a compendium of universal information.

Price of Zell's Encyclopedia bound in cloth, and Farm and Fireside one year, \$1.50.

We have about 500 copies of Zell's Encyclopedia, bound in a strong paper binding (same as the \$1.50 edition except in binding), which we will close out for 60 cents a copy, including Farm and Fireside one year. When this supply is exhausted no more can be had. It is a big bargain.

60 Cents.

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For any premium on this page address

FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

FINE SILVERWARE FREE

We absolutely guarantee every piece of this silverware to be as described and to give entire satisfaction or money refunded.

This silverware can be used in cooking, eating and medicines the same as solid silver. It will not, cannot corrode or rust. Teaspoons of equal merit are sold in jewelry-stores for \$1.50 or more a set; but because we buy direct from the manufacturers in enormous quantities, and because we do not make any profit on this silverware (subscriptions and clubs are all we want), we furnish it at a great bargain. In beauty and finish it is perfect, and for daily use, year after year, there is nothing better. The base of this ware is solid nickel-silver, which is silver color through and through, and will last a lifetime. This base is then given an EXTRA plate of pure coin-silver.

GRAND SPECIAL OFFERS

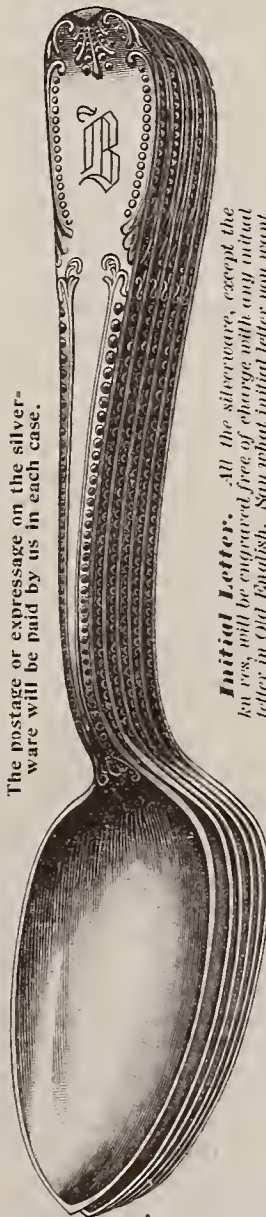
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Teaspoons for 75 Cents.
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Forks for \$1.00.
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Tablespoons for \$1.25.
This Paper 1 year and a Set of 6 Knives for \$2.00.
This Paper 1 year and both Sugar-shell and Butter-knife, 50c.

When ordered at one time and to one address, we will send the complete set of silverware, 26 pieces in all, and this paper FIVE years, for FIVE DOLLARS. (This offer can count as ONE yearly subscription only in a club.)

FREE FOR CLUBS....

Set of 6 Teaspoons given for a club of FOUR.
Set of 6 Forks given for a club of FIVE.
Set of 6 Tablespoons given for a club of SIX.
Set of 6 Knives given for a club of FIVE and \$1.
Sugar-shell (both) given for a club of THREE.

Will Stand Any Test. To test this silverware, use acids or a file. If not found to be well plated with pure coin-silver and absolutely white as silver through and through, and exactly as described in every particular, we will refund your money and make you a present of the subscription. If returned to us (with 10 cents to help pay cost of the new piece) we will replace any piece of ware damaged in making the test, providing you tell some of your neighbors what the test proved. We hope a great many persons will make the test, for it always leads to many additional orders from the friends and neighbors of the person who made the test.



The postage or expressage on the silverware will be paid by us in each case.

Initial Letter. All the silverware, except the tea set, will be engraved free of charge with any initial letter in Old English. Say what initial letter you want.

THIS IS THE KEYSTONE
HAY LOADER

which loads hay from the windrow or direct from the swath where the hay is heavy. It greatly facilitates the operation and reduces the cost of harvesting a crop of hay.



"Quick Haying Quality Prime."

You can not be short of help if you have one of these loaders, because one man can load hay with it if necessary. It is a light, strong machine and will last indefinitely.

This machine and our "KEYSTONE CHIEF" side delivery rake make a complete combination for the rapid and economic making of clean, bright, salable hay. More about them in our free circulars.

KEYSTONE MFG. CO.,
21 River St. STERLING, ILL.

GOODHUE



Self-oiling, Best Governed, Acknowledged to be the most powerful and durable made. We have everything the farmer needs in this line.


Galvanized Steel
Towers, Tanks and Pumps,
Cutters, Grinders, Shellers, etc.

POWER AND PUMPING MILLS

Catalogue, full of valuable points, free.

Appleton Mfg. Co.
9 Fargo St. BATAVIA, ILL.

THE KEYSTONE
RIVETING MACHINE



This riveter enables you to repair harness, put on a keeper or buckle. Rivets are countersunk. Has punch attachment.


HARTMAN MFG. CO., Box 26, Ellwood City, Pa.

AGENTS WANTED. or Room 77, 277 Broadway, New York.

Cabled Field and Hog Fence,

24 to 38 inches high; Steel Web Picket Lawn Fence; Poultry, Garden and Rabbit Fence; Steel Gates, Steel Posts and Steel Rails; Tree Flower and Tomato Guards; Steel Wire Fence Board, etc. Catalogue free.

DEKALB FENCE CO., 38 High St., DeKalb, Ill.



Comes and Goes,

but still is a "stayer." Come summer, come winter, The Page abides unchanged. We've told you over and over again it's the coil that does it. That coil is patented by the

PAGE WOVEN WIRE FENCE CO., Adrian, Mich.

FOR 18¢ PER ROD

Chicken fence 19¢. Rabbit-proof fence 16¢. and a good Hog fence for 12¢ per rod. Plain, Coiled Spring and Barbed Wire to farmers at wholesale prices. Catalogue FREE for the asking. Address: KESSELMAN BROTHERS, Box 235, Ellettsville, Indiana.

17¢. PER ROD

Is all it costs to build the best Woven Wire Fence on earth with our Automatic Machine. We sell the Famous COIL SPRING WIRE CATALOGUE FREE.

KOKOMO FENCE MACHINE CO., Box 67, Kokomo, Ind.

JONES HE PAYS THE FRADE

BEST SCALE, LEAST MONEY.

JONES OF BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

GENERAL AGENTS

wanted to superintend local agents selling the Combination Lock-pin Clevs to farmers and others. Self locking; always secure; sells at eight; exclusive territory. 150 percent profit.

CORMAN MFG. CO., 225 Dearborn Street, Chicago.

Our Farm.

PRODUCING THE CAPITAL.

It is an advantage in poultry-keeping that the beginner makes his capital; that is, he can "grow" his capital if he will be patient. What is meant is that if he commences with fifty hens he need not be compelled to buy more stock immediately, as he can prepare during one year for the next. He may have two hundred hens the second year, and have all accommodations complete. The third year he may have a flock of five hundred and then increase every year thereafter, so that in five years or more his farm may contain one thousand hens. It may extend the period over five years, hence, as the beginning is with a few, the capital will be small, and as the poultryman adds to the number of his hens he at the same time enlarges his capital. That is a point in favor of the poultry business—this gradual enlargement of the capital—which makes it so attractive to many, and which also makes the business possible to those who cannot derive as large profit in proportion to capital invested in any other pursuit. But the great difficulty is the fact that nearly all who turn their attention to poultry are unwilling to wait five years. They are not inclined to build up a business, but endeavor to get into it the first year, with a profit from limited capital and no experience, the result being that the list of failures is a long one. The one who begins with a few and increases his flocks gains experience as he travels along the road of progress, and while increasing his capital through the natural increase of his flock, he is adding to his experience and becoming more capable of accomplishing the objects sought. The capacity of the plant is made greater by the production of the flocks, the eggs and poultry sold being the source of income. It may be a hardship to support a family while getting well into the business, but the sacrifices made will be well repaid later. While building up a business the selection of good layers from pure breeds and the escaping of disease will also assist in insuring success.

INEFFECTIVE BORDEAUX MIXTURE.

The preparation and application of Bordeaux mixture for plant-diseases are now pretty generally understood by horticulturists, but complaint is still of common occurrence. It is stated that the fungicide for some unknown reason is not effective at certain times, and that at others a powdery substance settles at the bottom and will not mix readily with the comparatively clear liquid in which it forms. Concerning the first complaint, the answer that would most frequently be found correct is that the disease it was intended to check had obtained too strong a hold upon the plants to be dislodged by applications of fungicide. Preventing the entrance of the parasite is insurance. Spray early, often and thoroughly.

The settling of the Bordeaux mixture is due to age. When the lime and copper sulphate solutions are mixed and applied while fresh, no trouble from settling is experienced. But the longer the mixture stands the poorer it gets from the gradual but constant collecting of the minute particles of chemically combined lime and copper sulphate, which at last become too large and heavy to be held in suspension by the water. They sink.

In some experiments tried to test the efficacy of old and freshly mixed Bordeaux mixture it was found that the latter was always more potent, but that the former was not always nor uniformly worthless. Some fungicide was mixed and allowed to stand for several weeks. A knapsack-sprayerful was applied to plots of potatoes with the result that the ends of the plots first sprayed were almost as free from blight as the plots sprayed with freshly made mixture, whereas the ends sprayed with the last of the fungicide in the sprayer were as badly affected with disease as the plots not sprayed at all. This shows that the precipitation is very rapid in the mixture and that the effective part of the solution is soon pumped out.

From these experiments it may be seen that Bordeaux mixture should be prepared as close to the time of application as possible in order to obtain best results. The stock solutions of lime and of copper sulphate may be kept, but the mixture may not.

M. G. K.

Potash Free

is one of the three important ingredients of a complete fertilizer; the others are phosphoric acid and nitrogen. Too little Potash is sure to result in a partial crop failure.

An illustrated book which tells what Potash is, how it should be used, and how much Potash a well-balanced fertilizer should contain, is sent free to all applicants. Send your address.

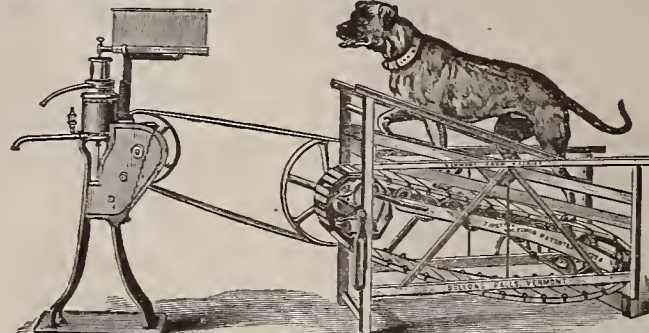
GERMAN KALI WORKS, 93 Nassau St., New York.

Works Speak Louder than Words

This is especially applicable to

The Improved U. S. Separator

Anything we may say of its good qualities would be inadequate to fully express the superiority of its work. We are receiving constantly letters from users telling how well pleased they are with the Improved U. S.; how clean it skims; how easy it runs; how little work it is to take care of—there being so few parts; how it has increased the yield and improved the quality of the butter, so that they not only have more butter to sell, but it commands a higher price; how little the expense of running is—few repairs, and that they would not have any other make of Separator.



More Improved U. S. Separators are being sold than ever before, which is a sure sign of their popularity among Dairymen and Creamerymen. We also manufacture the

First Prize Dog or Sheep Power

which is the finest thing of its kind made. It is not only unequalled as a power for light-weight animals to run machinery with, but Dog Breeders say it is a fine thing to exercise dogs on.

Clinton, Conn., March 10, 1898.

The goods have arrived and been set up. Mr. Pratt is much pleased with the Improved Separator, and thinks the dog power the finest he ever saw. He is a large dog breeder, and considers it a fine thing to exercise his dogs on.

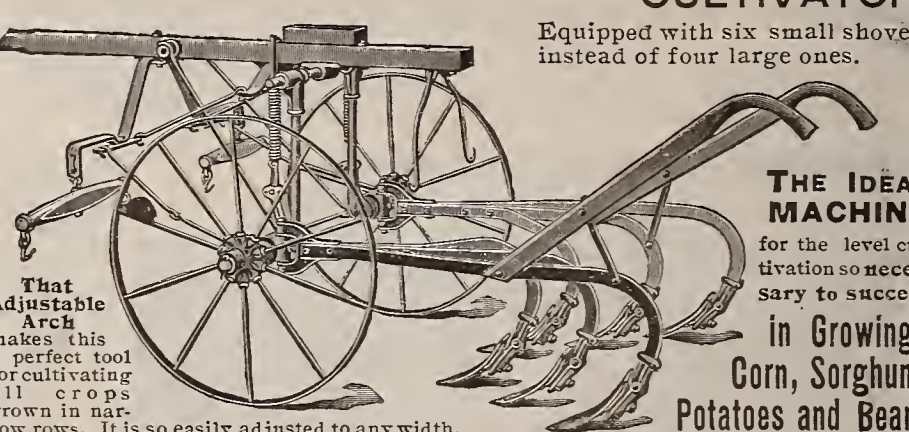
HENRY M. MARSH.

If you wish anything in the Dairy line, it will pay you to investigate our goods before purchasing elsewhere. Catalogues free on application.

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JUNE 1, 1898.

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WAR

talk has occupied the public mind for weeks, to the exclusion of strict business matters.

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teenth century, brave, vindictive and savage, delighting mostly in rapine, robbery and the persecution of her subjects; in ignorance, bigotry and bull-fights. It is an act of Christian civilization, demanded by this enlightened age, and forced upon the United States, to release Spanish colonies in American and Asiatic waters from the cruel, extortionate and hopeless despotism of that decayed power. No other nation could undertake it without disturbing that balance of power in the European family to prolong the nice adjustment of which great navies and standing armies exist, consuming half the public revenues of that continent.

"The united edicts of the two great English-speaking nations would be respected. They together can convince the Spanish and all other races that the days of conquest, glory and display are over; that force of arms is made necessary only in dealing with degenerate or savage nations; that diplomacy and arbitration should conclude all disputes and questions arising between countries of intelligence and integrity; that the growth and strength of any state must rest in the fullest development of its agriculture, industrial and commercial interests, in the education of its people, and in raising to the highest level the standard of citizenship and morals.

"Supplemented by the power of the English navy and the strategic strength of her possessions, shall we not be left to pursue more closely the strict lines of government marked out by the founders of the republic, and from which we were in danger of departing to pursue the road of devitalizing socialism with its destruction of individual independence and protection?"

England's manifested desire for such an alliance places the United States in a strategic position in the field of international diplomacy. Other nations of Europe that have been sympathetic toward Spain now give positive assurances of their friendship to the United States. Fear of an Anglo-American alliance may prevent more than one European power from assisting Spain. By courteously acknowledging their assurances of friendship, and maintaining independence with an ear inclined to the best offer of alliance, our government prevents Spain from forming any alliance against the United States. The development of a nation brings to it new duties, and it must meet them; but our government will consider well before it departs from the principle laid down by Washington: "Equal and exact justice to all men, of whatever state or persuasion, religious or political; peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none."

ENGLAND'S overtures for an Anglo-American alliance and the diplomatic assurances of friendship made by other European powers have been followed by a revival of the plan for a Pan-American alliance. Senor Salvador de Mendonca, minister from Brazil, was recently transferred by his government from Washington to Lisbon. In presenting his letters of recall to President McKinley, he said:

"Opening your country since the colonial times as a land of refuge, and establishing your commonwealth on the solid foundation of the freedom of conscience; giving to the world the principles of the Declaration of Independence; affirming, by the consolidation of the union and by the abolition of slavery, that this continent was thenceforth consecrated to liberty, your people have come to the front rank as a peaceful factor of modern civilization. Fearless before the strong, magnanimous toward the feeble, deeply convinced that justice and right are the corner-stones of the state, and fairness the measure of international dealings; industrious, intelligent, law-abiding and peace-loving, your nation can well be proud of its achievements, and no one has had a better opportunity than I to satisfy himself by careful observation of men and laws of your steady advancement and progress.

"I have seen your country in its days of joy and sorrow. I saw, at the celebration of the centenary of your independence, the past-master in the art of war open the great fair of the arts of peace and reveal to the world the double greatness of the nation which, in ten years, had transformed swords and guns into implements of industry. I saw the great hero laid to rest in the heart of your great metropolis, amid the mourning of the whole land, and

witnessed his apotheosis celebrated by the voice of the entire union. I saw the chief magistrate of the nation felled by an assassin's hand, and observed the republic continue firm and serene under the empire of the law. In its joy or sorrow the nation did not depart a moment from the confidence in its high destiny.

"I have visited the different regions of your broad land; I know the active men of the East, the open-hearted inhabitants of the West, and the chivalrous Southerner. It has been my fortune to meet the statesmen, the scientist, the artist, the manufacturer, the farmer and the workman. Their common ideal is the honor and greatness of their country. I have trod the modest path of the land which leads to sacred places—Mount Vernon, where the founder lies; Hollywood, where Monroe rests; Oak-hill, where Blaine reposes. I have listened to the voices of the wind passing through the branches of the oaks which cast their shade over their tombs, and learned the secret of their greatness. May yours be an inspiring example to the whole continent.

"It has been my aspiration before leaving your country to sit again at a table around which all the American republics would re-enact, on a more solid basis, the agreement outlined by the unratified treaty of the twenty-eighth of April of 1890, distributing the responsibilities of the policy of Monroe, by the members of the compact, as it is due to their sovereign character. Blessed be the day which shall witness the meeting of such a congress, the first step for the establishment of an American diet, high court of the international affairs of our continent."

THE majority report of the House committee on foreign affairs in favor of the annexation of Hawaii by joint resolution disposes of an objection on constitutional grounds as follows: "The acquisition of these islands does not contravene our national policy or traditions. It carries out the Monroe doctrine, which excludes European powers from interfering in the American continent and outlying islands, but does not limit the United States, and this doctrine has been long applied to these very islands by our government. As Secretary Blaine said in 1881, the situation of the Hawaiian Islands, giving them strategic control of the North Pacific, brings their possession within the range of questions of purely American policy. The annexation of these islands does not launch us upon a new policy or depart from our time-honored traditions of caring first and foremost for the safety and prosperity of the United States."

Next in order after the annexation of Hawaii is the Nicaragua canal. Our little trouble with Spain has demonstrated that we need it for peace as well as war.

THE first two weeks of May are notable for great fluctuations in the wheat market. The New York price of No. 2 red winter rose from \$1.21½ on April 30th to \$1.93½ on May 10th. With the exception of the Chicago corner in September, 1888, this price has not been equaled in twenty-five years. A decline of about forty cents followed this rapid rise, and the condition of the market continues favorable for great fluctuations. Aside from speculation there is cause for an advance in the price of wheat. Consumption has overtaken production.

Under date of May 14th "Bradstreet's" says: "Statistics of the approximate world's supply of wheat, published last week, have attracted attention and proved specially valuable as showing that the present price movement is not based entirely upon a mere temporary speculative movement or upon the already much-abused 'war scare,' but is the result primarily of the reducing to the lowest point reached in the past seven years at this date of the world's available supply of wheat. The occurrences abroad this week have furnished additional testimony, if such were needed, to the critical position of wheat stocks in consuming countries, with supplies of new wheat, from the admittedly well-situated growing crops, still some distance in the future. Cable advices tell of the breaking out of a number of bread riots in Spain and Italy, these being either coincident with or following the suspension or entire abolition of import duties in these and other countries."

WITH THE VANGUARD

PROMINENT English statesmen have recently declared in favor of an alliance between the United States and Great Britain. Commenting on this subject of an Anglo-American alliance, a writer aptly says the real basis of it is not blood relationship but bread relationship. Bread is the bond of peace. England is dependent on foreign food-supplies for existence. Five sixths of her food is imported. The United States finds England the best market for surplus food-products. This inter-dependence is the basis of the alliance proposed by Great Britain as a far-sighted measure of self-preservation.

A contributor to the "New York Sun" says that the overtures of Great Britain to the United States suggesting an ultimate compact for the preservation of peace, coming at this time upon the acquisition of the Philippine Islands, should receive due consideration in the councils of our government.

"While it should be remembered of the United States, and recorded in the annals of time, that this contest with Spain is the first and only war begun by any country in the history of the world which had for its object the sole and disinterested purpose of releasing from inhuman treatment a helpless people of another race outside its borders, and establishing their freedom upon a permanent basis, there is nothing to prevent it being made the occasion for an alliance of the English-speaking race in the interest of progress and universal peace.

"We do not forget that in the very zenith of Spanish glory and power, when Spain was mistress of the world, it was the English race which dealt the first blow that started the decline and fall of that retrograde power, and from that time on her downward course has never ceased.

"It now devolves upon an English-speaking race again to destroy her armada, to strike the finishing blow, to deliver the final quietus to that cruel and treacherous nation, to those perpetrators of savage horrors whose wicked tortures in the Netherlands made the inhuman Alva a fit precursor of the monster Weyler in Cuba. The Spain we are fighting to-day is the Spain of the six-

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Take Your Time. A lady reader writes me that she believes I have, while speaking about the tendency of the American people to dyspepsia, etc., as yet failed to hit the nail on the head. And there is so much truth in what she says that I herewith quote the larger part of her letter as follows: "My husband is a hale and hearty farmer, and consumes as many fried things and sweets as anybody. If he has any dyspepsia I have failed to find it out. Dyspepsia does not come any more from what a person eats as from how he eats it. My husband comes in and calmly sits down to his bowl of rich soup followed by richly seasoned potatoes, fried meat, gravies, fruit, etc., taking time to eat and enjoy his meals. My next neighbor comes in, rushes to the table, tosses six or eight hot biscuits down, drinks his coffee as if his life depended upon getting through in ten minutes, and is back to work in twenty minutes. He has no time to lose, but has to take a 'lay-off' every few weeks because 'the weather or something don't agree with him, don't you know?' It is a case of 'haste makes waste.' The American people, as a rule, are too energetic (as they call it) to take time to eat and sleep properly, and consequently they have to suffer and are cursed with dyspepsia and quack-medicine men. And it is one reason why they are poor, too." Surely it is no new truth that fast eating makes early dyspepsias. It is also often stated that cheerful conversation and laughter during meals aid digestion and promotes health. I believe it does that mostly by inducing people to eat more slowly and by giving them time to masticate and salivate their food more properly. So better let us take our time for our meals, talk and laugh and grow fat and good-natured.

Liquid Foods. Our correspondent's allusion to "rich soup" reminds me of what is surely a fact; namely, that the great majority of Americans live on dry foods far too much. Plenty of liquids dissolve and carry off poisons that would otherwise remain in the system. It is much the same with the human race as it is with animals. Winter is the critical time for domestic stock, not alone because the ration is faulty, but also because succu-

lent food is lacking. Winter is the critical time for human animals, also, less on account of exposure than for the want of succulent food, such as fresh vegetables and fruits. In the spring most of us complain about being "feverish" and out of sorts. Then comes the time of fresh garden stuff again, and of strawberries, etc., and we "pick up" at once. The water in the berries and in peaches and watermelons is what I believe makes them so wholesome and satisfactory in their effects on the human system. For the same reason and purpose we eat soups and drink hot water, and many of the people who are now constantly complaining about this and that ailment might enjoy the best of health and be cured of their ills if they were to introduce more water into their interiors. The value of hot water, hot lemonade, hot soups and similar liquids is not appreciated as it deserves. The practice of having soup as the first thing served at dinner is a good one and entirely in harmony with the laws of hygiene. I frequently take a large glass or cup of hot lemonade or sweetened water before breakfast, and always with best results when it is made a regular practice.

The Candy-eating Habit.

The American people are great in everything, even as candy-eaters. I often wonder about the great quantities of sweetmeats that are sold in the two groceries of our little village. The big show-case may be packed full to-day, and in a week's time it is almost completely emptied and ready for a new supply. I well remember that as a child and up to the time I was well grown up I had an almost uncontrollable longing for sweets, rich chocolates, etc. I could eat sugar in any form by the handfuls if I only could get free access to it. At home we were never overfed with sweet things, which probably accounts for the fact that we were "crazy" for candy. American children of the present day usually have all the sugar, cakes and other sweet things that they could wish for, and there is even less excuse for feeding them with candies than there was in our own case. We stand face to face with the fact, however, that our children ask us for candy about every time that they know we are going to some store. The question which comes home to every parent is, shall we indulge them in the candy-eating habit or not? In other words, are we to consider candies wholesome or not? A writer in the "New York Farmer" quotes from the remarks of a Chicago physician as follows: "Of all the mistaken ideas which have their origin in the false hygienics of the daily press none is more wide from the truth and none is more harmful than the absurd notion that candy is detrimental to health. Every physician and all who have ever studied the subject from a scientific standpoint must certainly be aware of the fact that candy which has as its base pure sugar and the choicest of fruit juices and pulp offers in itself an ideal food rich in nutritive value, and one in which old and young can indulge with the greatest benefit. Chocolate confections in particular have a decided alimental value, etc." To this our friend very appropriately replies as follows: "In so far as the food value of confectionery is concerned, the physician is correct. . . . But because such things (sugar, chocolate, etc.) are known to be nutritious, it does not follow that they should be eaten as confectionery is eaten. . . . Candy is almost always eaten between meals, and thus tends to impair the digestion. For persons of weak digestion eating candies, and especially those in which chocolate is a prominent part, is a very foolish habit. Nothing will promote acidity of the stomach quicker than sugar. That candies are a necessity for children is absolute nonsense. . . . The free use of chocolate will do more to impair digestion than any other form of confectionery. . . . The less children eat of all candies the better." I think this hits the truth pretty well. But our friend has said nothing about the most serious phase of the question. Most of our cheaper forms of candies are a compound of glucose, coal-tar, flavoring extracts and coloring matter, etc., and these adulterated candies, because they are cheap, are just the ones most usually bought and eaten. On the whole, I consider the candy-eating habit a very bad one, and while my family can have all the good sugar at meal-time they may want, and all the good fruit in its season (or out of season, too), I do not spend much money for candies from the stores. It seems to

me money worse than wasted, especially when I remember how many had headaches I had in my childhood and boyhood days and undoubtedly came from overindulgence in sweetmeats, chocolates included.

German or Belgian Hares.

Readers of the FARM AND FIRESIDE seem to manifest some interest in German hares (so called). I have kept and bred these interesting animals, one of the largest of the rabbit family, for many years, and do think that there is a place for them on the premises of every gardener, and of most farmers, too. In the first place, they are a harmless and useful pet for children, much safer, much more cleanly and less liable to carry infectious diseases than cats or dogs. If we must have animal pets, why not rabbits rather than animals that are pests more than pets? I raise and keep them mostly on waste of the garden, roots, waste leaves, weeds, etc., with some clover hay and occasionally a little grain or fruit, milk, etc. They grow to full size in less than a year's time, and may be allowed to breed when eight months old. I usually castrate the surplus males, and use them for the table when they have reached nearly their full size. Their meat equals chicken-breast in appearance and flavor. Rabbits may be kept in rather a small space, even in a box of some size, but they should be kept scrupulously clean. Breeding does must be separated from males and kept each by herself where she can look after the welfare of her brood in privacy and safety. The old males frequently kill the little helpless things if they are allowed access to them. I have often given to the half-grown ones the freedom of the place, and I seldom had them abuse such privileges. At least I do not remember that they ever gnawed trees, although they may do some damage by eating off bean and squash vines if they can get into the garden. Usually these rabbits prefer weeds to cultivated plants, and they are fond of herbs, such as catnip, the mints, cresses, etc. A light, tight room in some outbuilding is a good place for them, especially if it has a tight floor of plank or cement which may be covered six inches deep with dried muck or loam. Have little covered runs or boxes where the does can make their nests. Be sure that rats and weasels cannot get at the young stock. The old ones can defend themselves against cats, but not so well against dogs. Altogether I am fond of these animals and like to have them on the place for pleasure and profit.

Slugs, Snails and Sow-bugs.

In the greenhouse as well as in open ground slugs and similar crawling and often slimy things are liable to give us much trouble and annoyance. I find some very good suggestions on fighting these pests in a new book just issued by the Orange Judd Co., of New York, entitled "Greenhouse Management," and written by L. R. Taft, professor of horticulture and landscape-gardening, Michigan Agricultural College and author of "Greenhouse Construction." (Illustrated, 400 pages, cloth. Price \$1.50). Mr. Taft says: "The damage done by slugs, snails and sow-bugs is often very great, especially by the slugs, which seem to delight in eating off young seedlings. In modern well-built houses they are far less troublesome than in the old-style houses that are generally damp, dark and with more or less of rotting wood. If flats, bits of board and other rubbish are not allowed to lie around under the benches, then there will be little danger of their appearance in houses that are well lighted and properly ventilated. Neatness, then, should always be used as a preventive. If they make their appearance they can often be held in check by sprinkling air-slaked lime over as well as under the benches. This will help both in drying up the surplus moisture and by its caustic action destroy or drive away the slugs and similar animals. 'Traps' are also quite useful, as by placing cabbage or lettuce leaves where they are numerous the slugs and sow-bugs will collect beneath them, and if they are sprinkled with Paris green many of the marauders will be killed. Sweetened bran also has an attraction, particularly for slugs, and the addition of Paris green will soon clean them out. Bits of carrot poisoned with some arsenite are also good traps for sow-bugs." I will add that for fighting slugs and similar things in open ground, lime, salt and any alkali, dry or in solution, are good and effective remedies. T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Crop Boom. The high jump in wheat prices and the boom in corn has made farmers feel that there is something to work for, and it is safe to say there will be few idle acres this season. Every farmer I know will put forth his best efforts to put in a full acreage of corn, and to grow as large a yield as possible. Some fields of clover will be turned over and planted to corn, and corn-fodder will take the place of hay for horse and cow feed next winter. When we grow lots of corn there need be no lack of first-class roughage for stock if the corn is cut when in good condition to make bright, nutritious fodder. With an abundance of such fodder stock has little need for clover hay, or any other hay for that matter, and the fields that are turned under for corn will not cause the slightest shortage in rough feed for stock.

Winter Wheat Crop. Never in my recollection has there been a more favorable spring for winter wheat. During the winter the prospect for a crop was so slim that many farmers regarded the seed they had sown in the dry soil just before winter set in as so much lost. I heard one man berating his son at a great rate for "throwing away" twenty-five bushels of sixty-cent wheat by sowing it during the latter days of October. An old miller also heard him. After the man had finished the old miller called the son to him and said: "Don't you mind what he says about that. Next summer he will take it all back, and will have to admit that he does not yet know it all, by a large quantity. I have sown winter wheat in November and harvested twenty-five bushels an acre. All depends on the spring. If it is damp and favorable you will harvest a good crop as sure as the sun rises."

Last fall an Indiana man sent me a sample of winter wheat for examination. After giving my opinion of it I laid it aside. November 7th I happened to see it lying where I had placed it, and out of curiosity and to make an experiment I took a little stick and made a row of holes half an inch deep and two inches apart in my garden, and dropped one grain in each hole. Christmas morning I noticed that the plants were one half to one inch in height, each a single spire. There were twenty-four of them. During the winter four were heaved out by frost, but the others came through, and now they stand a foot high, are well stooled and growing vigorously. This is the story of all the late-sown wheat. It stands in the fields, May 15th, strong, vigorous, well stooled and gives every indication of yielding an excellent crop.

The twenty-five acres which the young man above referred to sowed in the last days of October bids fair to yield twenty-five bushels an acre, and he is in great glee over it, while the old miller never fails, when occasion offers, to remind the father that he last fall called the sower a simpleton, and declared that wheat sown that late never would grow.

Corn-bread. Flour is nearly doubled in price, and many of us have developed a great liking for corn-bread, hominy, beans, and the numerous garden products. Some who would not touch corn-bread last year, even going so far as to term it "pig-feed," have suddenly discovered that it is a fine-flavored, nutritious and an excellent food for a working-man. When well made, light, soft and puffy, and served hot, it is a far better food than biscuits made of third-grade flour, meat-fryings and saleratus. Buy meal that is ground very fine, and thoroughly cook it, and it is not only very palatable, but nutritious as well. Then there is oatmeal, steel cut and rolled; rice, pearl barley, and many excellent preparations of vegetables and corn. One can, if he feels so inclined, "live on the fat of the land" and not eat a particle of wheat.

Weeds. In fighting weeds a stroke in time saves ninety-nine. Destroy them while in the seed-leaf, if possible. In the field a harrow covering sixteen feet at a sweep will do it. In the garden a twenty-inch rake or a light wheel-cultivator will do the business rapidly and easily. When a weed gets two or three inches high it must be cut out or pulled out, and its roots left bare to kill it. While in the seed-leaf a touch almost destroys it. Kill it then or before it shows itself. FRED GRUNDY.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

CROP STATISTICS.—This country has little to boast of in respect to the reliability of its crop statistics. We make progress along many lines, but errors in estimate of harvested crops remain as glaring as they were twenty years ago. When the farmer has his wheat in his granary, and should know the amount of this grain in the country available for home consumption and export, there are no statistics at hand that he may depend upon with a degree of confidence. Our government estimates may be in error fifty or seventy-five millions of bushels, as total movement of wheat before the next harvest has shown them to be in the past. This looseness of estimate leaves one wholly at sea in such a season as this one, when the crop on hand is possibly inadequate to the needs of the market, and the future price hinges upon the presence or absence of a very limited quantity of grain. If our statistics were sufficiently reliable to enable us to know within a few millions of bushels how much wheat was now in this country, we would have data that might be worth a great sum to those of us that have our old crops on hand. But past experience proves that government estimates of stored grain are only huge guesses, as indeed they must be when there is no paid machinery for getting at the facts. Cheap work is naturally poor work, and all the money that goes into this work of crop-estimates is paid to a few men who draw high salaries and work over the guesses of men who receive no pay and cannot afford to gather the actual facts. It is a loose piece of business, and the farmers are ceasing to trust it. We do not want to be left dependent upon the reports issued by grain-dealers, and some more accurate plan for getting the data should be devised. This plan should include sworn returns from all threshermen, in the case of threshed grains, which would be nearly invaluable, and the rapid gathering of other data by paid experts.

COST OF PRODUCTION.—There should be an emphatic protest against the efforts of some parties to make the cost of production of farm crops appear as small as possible. The ridiculous estimate of the cost of a bushel of corn, published by one farm journal last year, is not the only misleading one, that one differing from most others in unfairness to the farmers only in degree. Several causes conspire to make these estimates misleading. Outside of the very rich black lands the charge for rental is rarely large enough for corn, as the land is nursed up to fitness for corn once in four or five years, and less remunerative crops are often grown while the soil is being fitted for corn again. Again, it is usually the most wide-awake and energetic farmers that make report of yields, and such usually have soils in best condition for big yields—not average soils and yields. Again, it is against human nature, it would seem, to report failures. They come in all crop production, and their cost is borne, but they do not figure in reports usually, while the maximum yield is always in evidence. There is the additional fact that farmers, as a class, are inclined to rate their work at a very low price, and to charge nothing at all for the skill in management. It results that estimates are usually too low, and we "bear" prices and induce competition by these inaccurate figures on cost of production. The impression is created that we are doing much better than we really are, or that we have only ourselves to blame if we are not prospering. No other class of producers is guilty of such silliness, and we are the victims of theorists and politicians, whose figures should not receive a second thought from practical men.

PRACTICAL STATION WORK.—Every year the work of our experiment station grows more practical and helpful to the farmers. Some scientists hold that the work of the stations should be exclusively that of original investigation, piling together an immense amount of data that the farmer cannot make head or tail of; but the best field of investigation to-day is that in which ways may be discovered of applying the data now on hand to the every-day operations of the farmer. Many of the stations are doing this, and close study of modern bulletins will convince all farmers

that these bulletins are practical and valuable to the working farmer. The theorist is in the background, and the men at our stations are just the kind of people we farmers need as guides. They understand more fully now what we need to know, and they are presenting the information in such a way that we know how to make use of it. The progress along the line of practical helpfulness by our stations is so great that it should have the commendation and encouragement of every intelligent farmer.

LATE POTATOES FOR SEED.—I believe that a late crop of potatoes makes better seed than an early one. Many growers do all their planting in April and May, having found comparatively early planting the safest; but such growers should try the plan of raising a late patch for the next year's seed. The second-crop seed of the South keeps well and makes heavy sprouts in the spring, because it is not fully mature when dug late in the fall. A late Northern crop is also slow in sprouting, going through the winter in better shape than one ripened the last of August. Even where June planting is not very successful in making good yields, it should be given a trial to an extent sufficient to furnish seed one year, and a test of this seed with that from an earlier crop will probably convince the grower that the late has the most vitality. In the latter part of June try a late patch for this purpose. Plant in a deep trench, and cover lightly, continuing to fill the trench during the cultivation, and leaving the surface level when all cultivation ceases. This counteracts effects of drought.

DAVID.

SOME POISONOUS PLANTS.

With the recurrence of spring the daily papers record cases of poisoning due to certain plants that contain poisonous principles. The victim was perhaps hunting for some vegetable to take the place of the cabbage and other garden stuff raised the previous year, and found an innocent-looking and innocent-tasting plant in the woods which he ate with or without preparation. Or he may have been handling some plant, and been poisoned in this way.

A census of the plants growing in an area of only a few square miles revealed no less than sixty-five species that were either suspicious or known to be poisonous. Some of these are only slightly injurious, or affect only certain individuals, while others are deadly. They may be divided, for convenience, into two groups: Those that poison by assimilation, and those that act by contact. Of the two classes the latter is the smaller. It includes such well-known plants as poison-ivy and poison-sumac. Some people are in nowise affected by these two, while others are very seriously ill after handling them, or even being near them without touching them at all.

The plants of the second class may be divided according to the parts used. The danger from eating the leaves, particularly in the early part of the season, is not so great as from eating the roots; first, because the green and growing parts contain a relatively small proportion of the harmful substances compared to the large quantity of watery tissue, and second, the herbage is generally not so attractive as the roots that would generally be selected. Probably the boiling of certain plants destroys the poisonous principle in the same manner that the poison of pokeweed "sprouts" is destroyed. The roots usually selected are plump from their content of food stored up the previous season. But in the spring the content of poison is also much greater, and roots that during the summer might possibly be eaten with little or no evil consequences might produce unpleasant or even fatal results if eaten in the early part of the season.

As a general thing the commoner cases of poisoning from eating roots are due to species of the parsley family, some members of which resemble carrots, parsnips and celery. And even these garden-plants sometimes produce unpleasant effects, such as skin affections due to the handling of celery foliage. The parsnip when allowed to run wild for a few years in waste places will lose size, and yet elaborate a poisonous principle that may cause death in some persons, and yet prove harmless to others.

Spotted parsley, or poison-hemlock, a smooth, much-branched, ill-smelling herb that attains a height of three feet, and marked with purple specks, contains in all its parts a virulent poison called conicine. Closely related to this species is the false

parsley, or spotted cowbane, often called water-hemlock and beaver-poison. This is also spotted like the former species, but is much taller. The root is deadly, and is charged with producing more deaths than any of our poisonous plants.

No definite rule can be laid down as a protective guide in distinguishing these venomous plants from the non-poisonous ones. It would therefore be wise to avoid the use of all wild plants as articles of food, particularly those that pass the winter as large, fleshy roots, unless well known to be harmless.

M. G. KAINS.

RURAL HOMES.

Let me urge upon your readers the desirability of making the surroundings of our farm homes more attractive to the eye, if we would have farm life as enjoyable as it should be. The possibilities of the beautifying of farm homes are almost without limit, if taste and willingness are applied to the work of adornment. The progress may not be very rapid, for nature must be relied upon to add the finishing touches to the handiwork of man, and nature works by progressive but easy stages.

Man may grade his lawn, prepare the seed-bed, sow the seed, and give it proper care. Nature will grow the velvety carpet of living green which is the groundwork for all attractive home scenes. Man may plant trees and make judicious selection, but it is nature's hand that trains them in symmetrical form, and paints the foliage and the bloom in variegated tints that rival the rainbow in harmony of color.

The shrubbery is easily attainable and quickly planted, but years are required to bring them to their greatest perfection. But all these are essential to a beautiful home, and yet thousands of farmers have never made any attempt to secure any of them with the idea of making their homes something more than a mere stopping-place where he eats and sleeps. Fine and expensive buildings alone cannot make a beautiful home. Neither can it be perfected by Brussels carpets, upholstered furniture, lace curtains, gilded paper, costly paintings and silver or china ware.

Many of our Western farmers apparently care only for corn, hogs, cattle, sheep, etc. But who is it that can deny the desirability of a beautiful rural home, even though he may make no attempt to secure one for himself.

I never pass by a beautiful home without securing some of the satisfaction which I feel assured the occupants must possess. Then, too, these beautiful home scenes linger longer upon the memory than those which have little to recommend them. Though it has been long years since the writer left his childhood home, he yet loves to recall the beautiful grove of natural forest-trees which adjoined the house-yard on the southwest. How the children delighted to seek its cool and shady retreats, its sloping hillside and its babbling brook in the sultry days of summer. How merry was the coasting 'mid the boisterous days of winter. The proximity of the grove, though only about three acres in extent, had its effect upon the temperature about the house, which we found by comparing the thermometer with those of our neighbors, giving us two to four degrees lower temperature in summer, and two to four degrees higher temperature in winter.

The beautiful home scenes along the Hudson river, in some sections of Pennsylvania, and in some parts of our own Ohio, are a pleasure to recall to mind. At this date the writer is on a business trip among the beautiful farm homes which line the banks of the Huron river, and it is this that has led him to suggest that every farmer should make it an object to beautify his home surroundings, as times and means will permit. This part of Michigan was settled largely by Englishmen, and many of the estates are to-day models of beauty, thrift and productiveness. The young people are not so anxious to get away from these truly homelike scenes, and in many instances, where they have gone forth to seek for something better, the memory of the grand old farm home, with its comforts and luxuries, even though intermingled with much labor and some sacrifices, lead them to return sooner or later to make the farm their permanent home.

Although the estates are large compared with the average in Ohio, yet in this region they all have water-fronts, and extend back some distance, making the homes quite near together, and thus increase the opportunities for social and intellectual

development. Of course, the "water effect" is not always attainable, desirable as it is under proper conditions, but here it is found in perfection and appreciated quite highly by the residents.

Last evening a party of young people came down the river in their skiffs, and with musical instruments, which always seem to give forth sweeter strains when on the water, and for an hour or more discoursed sweet harmony in honor of the young ladies at whose home I am stopping.

JOHN L. SHAWYER.

BEANS FOR PROFIT.

My experience in bean-growing extends over a period of about twenty years. As to varieties, the demand for Lima, yellow-eye, black-turtle soup, red and white kidney, etc., is but limited. So we will leave the choice with the fancy of the grower. For a general crop the marrow, medium and pea beans are recommended, subject to the nature of the soil on which they are grown. Marrows do best on strong heavy soil. Mediums and pea are better suited for lighter soils; but any variety needs land strong and fertile enough to produce a good crop of corn.

The land should be in sod, and if possible free from weeds, as it is almost impossible to raise a good crop of beans among weeds. Plow in the autumn, or as early as possible in the spring, and be sure to thoroughly harrow and cultivate before time for planting.

The planting should be done from the first to the fifteenth of June. Our custom is to sow them with a grain-drill of eleven hoes (seven inches apart), using only three of the hoes, thus making the rows twenty-eight inches apart, and after sowing the first time across the field let the wheel follow its own track in returning. Do not sow more than from sixteen to twenty quarts of pea-beans on an acre; but of medium or marrow sow from twenty to twenty-four quarts, as they are larger. If the soil needs nourishment use about one hundred pounds of phosphate to the acre. As soon as the beans are large enough, which will be but a few days if the conditions are favorable, start the cultivator, using very narrow teeth, not to exceed an inch and a half to two inches wide, and keep the crop clean and the ground mellow until the beans begin to blossom, but do not work the crop while the vines are wet.

When the beans are ripe we cut them about one inch below the surface with a bean-harvester, of which there are several makes, which cuts two rows and gathers them in a windrow. Three of these windrows are gathered into bunches of small size with pitchforks, pains being taken to shake out the dirt, and left a day or two to cure. The crop is then drawn into the barn to be threshed whenever convenient with a bean-thresher.

As to an average crop it is not easy to make an estimate. Much depends upon the conditions. One man may have a yield of thirty bushels to the acre, while another with equally productive soil may not have more than half that yield, but may, no doubt, have a better crop of weeds. Twenty-five bushels to the acre is a good yield, and probably eighteen bushels is a fair average.

The fodder, after having been threshed, is eaten readily by sheep and cattle, and is quite nourishing. When the beans are offered for sale a deduction of about five cents a pound is made on any dirt or imperfect beans from the market-price; for instance, if the market-price is one dollar a bushel and a test shows that in a bushel of beans (sixty-two pounds) there are three pounds of dirt or damaged beans, a discount of fifteen cents a bushel is made from the above price.

After the crop is removed from the field the ground is easily fitted for sowing a crop of wheat or rye by harrowing two or three times with a spring-tooth harrow.

WM. S. MCKENZIE.

VACANT LOT FARMING.

Typographical Union, No. 6, of New York, one of the strongest organizations of printers in this country, has gone into the vacant-lot farming work for some of its unemployed members. About seventy-five of them have been started in the work near Pelham, being given one half acre each. It is said that all are very enthusiastic, some so much so that they want an acre each, and they will probably receive it if they prove deserving of it. That is the best possible form of charity that puts an unfortunate in the way of helping himself. It helps without pauperizing.—*Rural New-Yorker.*

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

EARLY CULTIVATION.—The average farmer might learn a good deal from a good gardener, especially in regard to the value of early cultivation. The old rule with me, when I undertook to farm it, years ago, was to go through my corn and potatoes twice with the cultivator (then a coarse, big-bladed affair) and once or twice with the hand-hoe, and this no matter what the soil, the soil conditions or the weather. When this was done I considered that the crops had all the attention they needed, and I felt that I was entitled to good yields. The great majority of farmers still stick to this same iron-clad rule. But how different does the modern farmer and gardener treat his fields. The old plan was to kill weeds. Now I do this incidentally. I cultivate in order to provide my crops with food and drink. I pay almost no attention to weeds, simply because my method of continuous cultivation does not permit any weed-growth. The other day I gave an object-lesson to a young friend, a farmer's boy and prospective farmer himself. He found me running a wheel-hoe in the garden.

"What are you cultivating there?" he asked. "I don't see anything to cultivate; besides, there are no weeds there yet, either."

"No," said I, "no plants there yet. But my cultivation will aid them to get there, and when they are there once, to grow strongly and vigorously."

Some seeds come slowly at best, especially such fine ones as carrot and celery, and if we have a hard rain soon after sowing, the soil may become packed so hard that the tiny plants will have trouble to break the crust. Where seeds have been sown with the modern garden-seed drill the rows show very plainly even before a plant is up, and there is nothing to prevent me from using the wheel-hoe right from the start, and surely just as soon after a rain as the ground has become dry enough again for work. I let the knives run as close to the row as I dare, and thus make it much easier for the little plants to break through the narrow strip of crust which I have to leave. In the meantime, evaporation from the surface is greatly reduced, and air is admitted to the soil particles. This treatment gives to the whole patch the appearance of freshness, new life and vigor.

FEEDING BY CULTIVATION.—The experiments of Professor Roberts, of Cornell University, in growing big crops of potatoes by cultivation rather than by feeding with manures or fertilizers were significant to say the least. Many of our soils, like that used in these tests (a good strong loam), are well provided with all essential plant-foods, and all that is needed to make these foods available to plant-growth is frequent stirring, so as to admit air and bring new particles of this soil in contact with one another, thereby aiding chemical action, at the same time saving as much as possible of the soil moisture for the solution of the foods and the use of the plants. Professor Roberts, by cultivating the land from five to seven times, instead of the usual two times, increases his crop to the 250 or 350 bushels an acre rate, while the farmers around him, on the same kind of soil but with ordinary cultivation, rarely obtained yields beyond the 150-bushel rate. There is no doubt that frequent cultivation is a good thing and often very effective, and yet I am far from asserting that every farmer has it in his power to increase his potato crops at the rate claimed by Professor Roberts, by cultivating five, six or seven times, or any other number of times. Mr. Roberts likes to state his case as strongly as possible, and for that reason probably shows us his most striking examples. The potato crop is known to be fickle. In one year, and perhaps without much apparent reason, it gives us a big crop; in another season, and with no more apparent reason, it turns out to be a failure. In short, the outcome depends at least to some extent on the whims and vagaries of the season, and we are not always sure to what extent we have to charge the outcome to this cause or to our management. There are soils, too, for which treatment by feeding is indispensable for success. But cultivation is a good thing and should be pushed.

MARKING THE ROWS.—It is true, as already stated, that the garden-seed drill

leaves the rows where seeds are sown readily discernable, and we often use the hand wheel-hoe before a plant is up. Yet I like to have an additional safeguard, and for that reason I usually put just a few radish-seeds in with such seeds as carrot, parsnip, etc. I want a radish-plant at least every foot or so. These radish-plants come up promptly, and are of some size, so that they indicate the exact location of the row quite plainly and nicely. Now we can cultivate up to them quite closely, paying no attention to the plants of the intended crop. The radish-plants are pulled up afterward, and they often give good radishes and come handy when we happen to be short of the regular supply.

THE TARRED-FELT CABBAGE COLLARS.—My early cabbages have nearly all been provided with the tarred-felt collars spoken of in an earlier issue. Of course, it takes time to cut these collars, and more time to adjust them properly. But I can see no reason why my cabbages should not now be entirely safe from the attacks of maggots. The protection seems to be mostly of a mechanical character. In other words, the maggots stay out because they cannot easily get in. If the collars are not properly put on, in other words, if the cut edges are not neatly and tightly fitted around the stem of the plant, however, the maggots will get to the roots in spite of the collar. The moral is: Take great pains in adjusting the collars. It is work that will well pay.

TOMATOES FROM CUTTINGS.—A reader in Wasco county, Oregon, asks for the details of making plants from cuttings. Ordinarily I have practised this method of raising tomato-plants only for the purpose of getting a larger stock of plants when seed of a particular (new or especially valuable) variety was scarce or the season had too far advanced to get plants early enough from seed. It can be practised with satisfaction even in the field. For instance, when I find a plant missing (having been destroyed by the cut-worm), I sometimes cut off a branch from a neighboring plant and simply plant it in the vacant spot, rather deeply; in fact, leaving but little more than the tip-end out of the ground. In warm, sandy soil and under otherwise favorable conditions such a cutting seldom fails to strike root promptly and make a good plant, bearing fruit but little later than the plant from which the cutting was taken. For the purpose of increasing a stock of plants in the greenhouse I clip off the leading shoots, and afterwards the side branches, and trim them. These are planted out in the propagating-bench or in a strong hotbed, and under favorable conditions will strike roots often in the course of six or seven days. To insure success, however, the soil must be warm and moist, and preferably sand. If the soil be cold and soggy the cuttings will fail to grow. On the whole, the tomato is as easy to grow from cuttings as almost any of the florists' plants.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

PRUNING FRUIT-TREES IN THE WEST.

The following is a summary of the results obtained in some experiments made by the Nebraska experiment station in regard to pruning:

Shall we prune fruit-trees in the West? To the Eastern man this will appear like a foolish question, and he will at once say, "Why, yes, of course; prune fruit-trees everywhere." To the Western man it will not appear so foolish; indeed, many men upon the plains would say "no" in answer to this question. Where is the trouble? Plainly a difference in conditions. The Eastern fruit-grower has learned by experience that pruning is an essential part of his method of treatment. The Western grower, on the other hand, has not only found that he can produce good fruit without pruning, but has sometimes found injurious results from it. Some of the reasons for pruning which apply in the moister climate of the Eastern states lose their force wholly, or in part, upon the plains. The Eastern grower finds it necessary to thin his trees and admit light and air to produce fruit of high color and good flavor. The Western man, on the other hand, finds that, under his conditions of intense sunlight and low humidity, fruit will develop color well regardless of such

precautions. The Eastern grower, if he neglects this, may find his fruit suffering from attacks of fungous diseases, but in general fungi are less troublesome in the dryer climate of the plains, so this reason likewise loses its force.

Yet there are reasons for pruning which are worthy of consideration, even in Nebraska. It is frequently essential to correct bad habits of growth in young trees, and this occurs as often in one climate as in another. Then, too, a tree which has come to maturity may attempt to do more than it can perform, so that it becomes necessary to thin the fruit. This, in part, can be done by pruning. In the case of small fruits and grapes it is wholly so done, though with trees additional measures are often needed. Still another reason would make itself evident to any one who would pick fruit for a short time in some of the trees which may be seen in Nebraska. Picking fruit is not an easy task under the best of conditions, and when the tree is so full of limbs and suckers that it becomes almost inaccessible, the work is doubly aggravating. Pruning is needed in Nebraska as well as in New York, but the methods employed, or at least the measure of wood which is cut away, will need to be varied. In general, it should be much less severe in the Western states than in the Atlantic states. The main thing needed is to watch the habit of growth of the young trees to prevent the formation of undesirable and crowding limbs, and to remove occasional suckers and water-shoots which may spring out from the trunk and base of the branches as the tree gets older.

The top of the tree needs to be kept more dense than in moister climates. The fruit itself is much less likely to suffer from shade than from exposure to wind and sun. In the Eastern states it is necessary to keep the lower limbs well up from the ground, or the fruit produced upon them will be lacking in color and flavor. In the West this is an unnecessary precaution, and low-headed trees are much in favor because they are believed to suffer less from the wind and to protect the bodies of the trees from "sun-scald."

The results did not show any great advantage of one season of pruning over another, but the partial conclusion is drawn that the pruning of trees during the growing season was better than during the winter when the weather was cold and the wood frozen.

As to whether the wounds should be made as smooth as possible or left rough as the saw left them, observations showed that, so far as these two methods are concerned, there is almost no difference to be found between the rough and the smooth wounds, whatever there is being in favor of the rough ones. Taken together, those which were left rough healed slightly better than those which were smooth. There was also slightly less checking, and some of the preparations seemed to remain a trifle better. The difference is so slight that it is hardly worthy of note, yet it is of interest because it leads us to see that any extra labor in attempting to smooth off an ordinary wound is unnecessary.

AS TO THE BEST MATERIAL FOR COVERING THE WOUNDS.—Taking all things together, nothing seems to be better for covering the wounds made in pruning than common lead paint, which is closely followed by grafting-wax. The wax is superior to paint in the matter of healing, but does not last as well and is not so convenient to apply, although in warm weather, when it works well, there is little trouble in this regard. Coal-tar is useful in preventing the wood from checking, but appears to be a positive hindrance to healing, so that, in spite of the fact that it stays well, there is little to recommend it. Pine-tar is no aid to healing, being apparently a trifle detrimental, while it helps only slightly in the matter of checking, and does not last well; therefore it has nothing to recommend it. Shellac is a failure. It does not last and neither aids the wound in healing nor to any appreciable extent prevents it from checking.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Bokhara No. 3 Peach.—L. M. J. Gabriel, Kans. The Bokhara No. 3 peach is not a good-selling peach, and yet it would probably sell in most of the markets of the country at a fair price. Its chief merit, however, is its great hardness.

Wood-ashes for Strawberry-bed.—A. A., Chatham, Canada. Wood-ashes is a good fertilizer for strawberries, provided that the ashes come from hard wood. If from soft wood they are of very little value, and will hardly pay for the handling. I would apply from 30 to 50 bushels an acre and put it on in the spring as soon as the crop starts. Unleached ashes only should be used.

Bird of Paradise.—A. H., Prescott, Kan. The plant that is called the "Bird of Paradise" is a very tender tropical plant that is only seen at the North in greenhouses. Its botanical name is *Strelitzia regina*.

Girdled Tree.—W. F. B., De Forest, Wis. The Scotch pine which has been completely girdled by woodpeckers last year should have the wound covered with blue clay or similar material and wrapped with a piece of cloth in the hope that it may grow over. If it does not grow over in this way the chances are that you will lose the part of the tree above the injury.

Japan Plums.—J. O. M., Waller, Tex. I think that the difference in the appearance of your Japanese plums is probably due to the difference in the varieties, some of the varieties being quite hardy, and others quite tender. Some of them seem to be hardy enough in the leaf-buds in the extreme northern states, while the fruit-buds are often killed in such severe locations. I think that probably you had better throw away the varieties that appear so weak and replace them with hardier kinds.

Whitewashing Young Trees.—C. S., Kampsville, Ill. Whitewashing the stems of young fruit and other trees does no injury, and if a little Paris green is mixed with the whitewash it makes quite an efficient protection against girdling by mice or rabbits. The whitewash if applied alone would probably not be very beneficial, but it does no harm, and undoubtedly to some extent protects the trees from borers, since it is distasteful to many of the beetles which lay the eggs of the borer.

Trimming Red Cedar.—C. B., Leavenworth, Kan. The red cedar may be trimmed at any time. The best time to do it is in the spring before growth starts. 2. Corn and other seeds may be protected from field-mice and other animals that are liable to eat them by coating them with coal-tar. This is generally done by warming the seed somewhat, putting on a little hot water, and then sprinkling a very little coal-tar on the corn, stirring it rapidly until the corn is entirely coated, when it is dried by applying land-plaster or other absorbent to it.

Rose Culture.—F. W., Bakersfield, Vt. Rose-bushes require a rich, rather heavy soil in order to get the best flowers. A large part of the old growth should be cut out each spring and the new growth shortened somewhat. Well-rotted cow manure is probably the best fertilizer for roses, and it should be applied in the spring of the year. If insects attack the foliage, the best remedies are white shebore and water at the rate of one ounce to the gallon, or Paris green and water at the rate of a teaspoonful to a pail of water.

Planting Apple-seed.—E. M. S., Twenty-mile Strand, Ohio. The proper time to plant apple-seed is as soon as the ground is well warmed, and in my practice I always keep the seed moist and mixed with sand in the spring until it begins to start, when I sow it in the warm soil, and it comes up very quickly. The seedlings are very tender, and if the land is inclined to bake on the surface the seedlings often fail to push through, so it is better to start them inside and have them ready to grow at once when planted. They should be covered about one inch deep.

Brown-rot on Quinces.—J. D., Woodstock, Va. Your quinces dried up and remained on the trees probably because they were infested with a sort of brown-rot. Peaches and plums also dry up and remain on the trees over winter when they are infested with a certain fungus. These fruits that remain on over winter generally contain spores which start the disease the next year. I think that your best method of treatment would be to remove the diseased fruit and wood and to spray with Bordeaux mixture several times this season, commencing as soon as the fruit has well set. You will find that the Bordeaux mixture will have a tendency not only to prevent the disease you complain of, but also to prevent a number of other diseases that affect the quinces.

Strawberry Fertilizer—Grafts Inserted Upside Down.—P. A. H., Kratzerville, Pa. Nitrate of soda and powdered phosphate of lime might help your strawberry crop sufficiently to make it pay if applied early in the spring before they have made much growth, but it might be better to include with it some potash, since potash is generally lacking in the soil of your vicinity. I think the potash more important than the phosphate, but would use both.—If a graft is inserted upside down it will seldom grow, and if it does grow the branches make an awkward turn and try to grow upward again. There is no truth in the claim that grafts inserted in this way produce seedless fruit or in the other claim commonly made that they produce weeping trees.

Apple Stocks and Root-grafts.—D. J. M., Walton, Tex. Apple-seedling stocks can undoubtedly be raised in Texas. They are raised in large quantities in Kansas and elsewhere. I cannot say just what would be the difference or the effect of growing trees on roots cut off from old trees. I know that in the early history of this country it was a common practice to use the smaller roots of old trees for root-grafting, and many of such orchards have undoubtedly stood for a long time. However, since horticulturists have adopted the plan of using seedlings, and since seedlings are generally more vigorous than plants grown from cuttings, I think it would be safer for you to use apple-seedling stocks rather than to experiment largely by using the roots of old trees.

In the Homes

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Our Farm.

DAIRY-FARM LEAKS.

LAST season there was a great hay crop in New York state, which, added to the corn and other forage crops, gave an abundance of food for the wants of the farmer's herds and flocks. It was a year of surplus forage crops "all around," one result of which was the dropping of the price of hay from \$10 to \$5 a ton, with plethoric barns and a multitude of great stacks besides. This condition of things—the first in a number of years—seemed to give the average dairy-farmer increased confidence, and to secure him against the squandering of his corn crop in greater measure than ever before. His mows and granaries were full, so he "took no thought of the morrow," or rather of next year, but allowed much to run to waste, just as he is always sure to do when he has a surplus, or even when he does not.

A passenger riding on a New York Central train between Rochester and Suspension Bridge, February 1st, last, could have easily counted one hundred acres of corn standing in the shocks in the fields where it grew, and there was, doubtless, fully as great proportion elsewhere along the route not in sight from the train. Many of these shocks were nearly half buried in snow, but their owners did not seem to care much about them. They had, seemingly, drawn a supply to their barns in the fall, as parts of each field had been cleared, and when the train passed one of their barns the cattle were seen standing knee deep almost in the butt-ends of such stalks in the yards, engaged in the fruitless attempt of obtaining a dinner. Just what was to be the final disposition of the surplus snow-bound corn-shocks doubtless their owners could not have told. Presumably they had "money to burn," so did not care, having enough and to spare of other cattle-foods.

This same waste of the corn crop was observable, but in less amount, in Jefferson, Oswego and St. Lawrence counties, where the dairy-cows hold sway; but it was left to the counties of Orleans, Niagara and Wayne, along the lake region, and to Ontario, Monroe, Cayuga, Seneca and Yates counties, where a few years since no cows were kept and no corn grown, to excel in this wanton waste of the corn crop.

When the wheat and fruit growers of these counties saw the necessity of keeping stock for the purpose of bringing up the fertility of their farms, many of them put on a few cows and began making dairy-butter, and later, in some sections, creameries were built. These little herds of dairy-cows soon taught their owners the fact that they must have corn; so corn was planted, and is to this day, but much of it is lost.

These farmers are not, strictly speaking, dairy-farmers, but their loss in the corn crop is a leak, just as much as it is in Jefferson or St. Lawrence counties, where the great dairies of scrubs shiver and drink water from a hole in the ice of a pond or stream half a mile from their cold stables, and where during the middle of the day they arch their backs and endeavor to extract warmth from a barbed-wire fence on the lee side of a barn-yard, with the mercury dozing in the vicinity of the "twenty-below-zero" mark.

Some of these farmers ought to know better than to waste their corn crop in this way, it being the most valuable crop grown on a dairy-farm. They begin each spring, as soon as the snow is off and the frost out of a piece of land large enough to turn a pair of horses and plow on, to plow; later, about June 1st, they plant; subsequently they cultivate, and finally round up the process by cutting and shocking the crop as above stated. Now why do they do this. They have had the benefits derived from the farmers' institute, dairy association, meetings, grange discussions and farmers' clubs, besides the aid given them by the many great agricultural papers, and which cost but little. From one to six of the farmers' institutes have been held each year since 1890, in fifty-five of the sixty counties of the state, where the most advanced thinkers and workers of this and other states—men who came directly from their farms and returned to them when the institute season closed—stood on the platform and preached a better doctrine, and cited their own and some of their neighbors' improved condition as proof of its soundness. Precept upon precept, line upon line, and example and proof beyond

measure have been sounded in the ears of these wasteful farmers, but nearly all, seemingly, in vain. In fact, it seems to one who has been watching them that they are more and more determined each year to increase this wastefulness. Of course, a large number of these farmers have never attended a farmer's institute, or other like meeting, nor do they read a good agricultural publication. They sneer at the former, carp about their cost in taxes which they have to pay, and say they are run by a lot of farmers who have a salary pull, but who never practise what they preach; and scout the latter as being run by a lot of cheap editors who cannot distinguish between a billy-goat and a Dorset horned ram nor tell one on which side to sit when milking a cow.

These men are beyond redemption, and not worth the time employed in endeavoring to convert them to a knowledge of the truth; but there are some who are still pursuing their old-time paths who do attend the institutes and read the best agricultural literature. This class, one would think, ought to be reached and rescued, and it is gratifying to note that, although the process is a slow one, many of them have seen the error of their ways, and are enlisting in the ranks of the advanced farm brigade; and it is because of the conversion of these men—a few each year—that the great Empire state is willing not only to grant a yearly appropriation for continuing the work and carrying on the institutes in an increased ratio, but to increase the amount from time to time, as occasion may require.

At each of the 260 institutes held in this state last winter and spring the value of the corn crop was illustrated and vigorously set forth by such able men as John Gould, of Ohio, Director F. E. Dawley, George A. Smith, H. E. Cook, A. R. Eastman, James E. Rice, Dr. C. D. Smead, J. S. Woodard and others of this state. How to cultivate the land for a corn crop; what soils are best; what varieties to plant; when to plant; when to cut; how to cure, and how to save and feed the crop for most profitable results comprised the essence of one or more addresses at each institute, while the "question-box" was given up mostly, at some institutes, to the discussion of the question of growing, curing and feeding the crop. There is no excuse, therefore, for these farmers longer wasting the most valuable portion of their corn crop, the stalk. If they do not have a silo, and cannot be influenced into building one, they surely know, or ought to know, how to best secure and utilize their crop in some other form than silage.

The chemists tell us that the nutritive value of a stalk of corn containing a perfect ear just entering the glazing stage is about forty-five for the ear as against fifty-five for the stalk, and that nearly seventy per cent of that stalk's value is below the ear. This is the part that is lost when the stalk is cut, shocked in the field and allowed to stand till late in the fall or till spring, as was seen in Western New York this season, then drawn to the barns and fed in the old-fashioned way. The cattle eat only the frost-bitten leaves, husks and tasseled ends of the stalks; the balance is thrown into the manure heaps or tramped under foot in the barn-yards by the cattle turned out for exercise.

Originally there were about five thousand pounds of starch in an acre of that corn that husked out one hundred bushels of sound ears to the acre, not much, if any more than fifteen per cent of which would have been lost had the entire crop been cut into a good silo when the ears entered the glazing stage. Instead, however, of putting the crop into a silo they husked it in the field, and when the November rains had gotten in their devastating work, drew the bleached stalks to the barns and stacked them around a center pole, to be fed later on, or left them unhusked in the field all winter, a fitting termination of a season of mismanagement and dairy-farm leaks.

New York.

C. W. JENNINGS.

NOTES FOR COUNTRY HOMES.

Starting with a strong prejudice against dogs for gardeners, I have come to be a very warm friend of the Scotch collie. I have had such a dog for about six years, and she goes in and out among the plants as safely as a cat, where another dog would break and destroy more than its worth. They will round in hens as readily as sheep and cows, when trained to it. The intelligence of the collie is almost human. They make admirable companions for the

children, and at the same time are perfect watch-dogs. I would confine them in the house nights, and consider myself perfectly safe against a half dozen burglars. The collie always springs for the throat, and is a dangerous beast for a thief to grapple with.

* * *

The use of fruit for food has recently secured very strong advocacy from some of our leading physicians. It is now said that there is no more speedy and ready cure for liver difficulties than to make our breakfasts entirely of apples; or for a few days to eat nothing else. The effect is equally good in curing cases of constipation and other intestinal troubles. It is certain that we have so far overlooked the extraordinary value of fruits as food.

* * *

The attack of Germany and England upon American apples and meat has been followed by an attack of Austria-Hungary on American clover-seed. It is claimed that to allow our clover-seed to be imported will greatly deteriorate the quality of Hungarian clover, and damage agriculture. The seed, it is claimed, is not only inferior, but mixed with corrupt seed called Klee-seide. Whether this claim is true or false will probably not affect the action of the Austrian government. Retaliation is now the order in all the European countries.

* * *

Among new winter pears Elwanger and Barry offer the Dorset, a seedling raised by Lemnel Clapp. This is a very handsome and late-keeping pear—ripening in February, but keeping till May. It is a large golden yellow pear with red cheek. The tree is vigorous in growth. Another fine new pear is the Fred Baudry. This pear is a late keeper, ripening in March. The quality is very good, with a distinct flavor. The color is yellow dotted with russet. A third pear, also due in March, is the Olivier de Serres. The fruit of this tree is above medium, and the quality is juicy and melting. None of the three can probably rank quite up to the very highest of all pears, but all three are valuable additions to our list of late-keeping pears.

E. P. POWELL.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM WEST VIRGINIA.—The climate here is healthful, and any one looking for a home could not do better than locate here. The land is suitable either for grazing purposes or tillage. It is very productive. Wheat bids fair to give bountiful harvest. Calves are selling for from \$15 to \$20 a head; sheep are in good demand at good prices.

F. W.

Webster, Taylor county, W. Va.

FROM ALABAMA.—On account of a short letter from me in your paper some two years ago several parties have been here to see for themselves whether or not the advantages of this country had been exaggerated. Some have bought land, others are here trying it for a year before buying, and yet others have come and gone back to sell out and come again. All have been favorably impressed with our climate, the richness of our lands and the immensity of our undeveloped resources. All declaring that all we need is persistent, intelligent effort to make these "flatwoods" a veritable garden spot.

R. P. S.

Kamp, Marengo county, Ala.

FROM TENNESSEE.—The term East Tennessee has long been a synonym for delightful climate, picturesque scenery, devoted patriotism and great natural resources. Bradley county possesses all of these. The climate is never extreme. Spring commences about the middle of March, when it looks as if God had planted everything of beauty and fragrance here. The maple is first seen putting forth its crimson buds, the poplar next, with its coat of verdure, and then it seems as if all nature was bursting forth its fragrant flowers. Summer lasts till about the first of December. No storms or cyclones ever pass through here, but enough rain falls to make the crops grow luxuriantly. Corn, wheat, oats, rye, barley, cotton, potatoes and all kinds of vegetables grow here. Garden lasts all summer, and never do the fruit-trees fail to yield their greatest capacity of fruit. Stock does well, living nearly all summer on the pasture the fields afford. The rough, timbered part supplies plenty of mast, such as acorns, chestnuts, hickory-nuts, etc., to keep the hogs in good fix till fattening time. The water is the best that runs, and is plentiful, gurgling out of sandy springs. Society is the best the country affords. Schools and churches are plenty and there are no saloons within ten miles. The people are industrious and honest. The roads are in good condition all the year. The historic associations are the writing of "Home, Sweet Home" and the translation of the Cherokee language into English.

B. J.

Cleo, Tenn.

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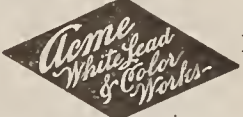


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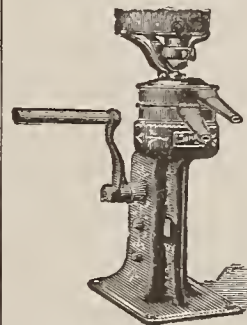
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Our Farm.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammononton, New Jersey.

PULLETS OR HENS.

THE value of a thing consists not only of its material, but of its capacity to produce. The advocates of pullets in place of hens claim that the hen can be sold in market, which sum they place to the credit of the hen. The egg, the flesh on the carcass and the chicks raised by a hen are supposed to be what her owner receives. But where is the pullet that is to take her place when the hen is sold? The answer is that the pullet must be "hatched and raised," and that is an expense that is not found in the estimate when the advice is given to replace the hens with early pullets. It is costly to raise the layers every year. For instance, let us suppose that it costs one dollar to raise a chick from the egg until it begins laying, to say nothing of the time lost. If the pullet is kept for laying but one year she monopolizes the entire sum of one dollar, and must lay a dollar's worth of eggs before she can begin to give a profit over her first cost, and she must also be supported while she is doing so. If she is kept two years the first cost of raising her is fifty cents a year. If kept four years her annual cost for expenses the first year (before she began to lay) is twenty-five cents a year. Hence the longer she is retained as a layer the smaller the cost of the pullet. Then it must be considered that if one has one hundred hens and is raising one hundred pullets to take their places, he must provide room for two hundred, although he really has but one hundred layers. It is the cheaper plan to retain the hens as long as possible, for no matter how much more valuable the pullet may be, you must first raise your pullet.

RAISING YOUNG TURKEYS.

May is the best month in the year for young turkeys, and if they can be given close attention until they are three months old they will be able to take care of themselves. The food should be given four times a day, but not more than they will eat up clean, and may consist of milk curds, finely chopped onions (including the tops), hard-boiled eggs, bread dipped in fresh milk and finely chopped grass. An excellent mixture is a raw egg beaten with rolled oats that have been crumbled fine by rubbing with the hands. Bear in mind that any food left over to become sour is so much poison to them, and hence the coop should be moved to a fresh location every day. They may be allowed to run on a lawn after the sun has dried off the moisture, the lawn to be kept close with a lawnmower. Dampness is nearly always fatal to them, and they should be under shelter every night, before sunset. The drinking-water should be given so they can reach it with their beaks only. Before the eggs hatch rub melted lard on the head and neck of the hen, close to the skin, and dust her well with insect-powder. Rub two drops of lard on the head of each chick once a week. These precautions are to guard against lice.

PROFIT ON A HEN.

It is admitted that while small flocks permit of a profit of from two to three dollars a hen for one year, one dollar is considered an average for large flocks. If one has two hundred hens a profit of \$200 is about what should be expected for a year, as allowance should be made for disease, inferior birds and other causes. But if the matter is viewed in comparison with the profits from other stock, the sum of one dollar a hen is quite large. The actual value of a hen is not over fifty cents if she weighs five pounds, yet she may lay as many as twelve dozen eggs in one year and also raise a brood of chicks. Of course, the profit depends upon the cost of the food and the prices obtained for poultry and eggs, and in some sections not over fifty cents profit a hen may be secured; but even at that low estimate an acre of land will enable the farmer to keep one hundred hens. In sections contiguous to good markets the farmer should make a profit of one dollar a hen, and if he does not do so he has not given up scrubs and mis-managing in some direction, which will leave him ample room for improvement.

HATCHING LATE CHICKS PROFITABLY.

It has long been a disputed point in relation to late-hatched chicks whether they gave profit or loss. What are termed late chicks are those hatched out after June 1st. It is admitted that the majority of persons have greater success with early chicks, but that is due to lice, the later chicks succumbing because of being smaller and weaker than the early ones. But lice must not be considered in the comparison, as it is the duty of every one who raises chicks to keep lice down. It may require labor, but the labor must be bestowed on the hatching of chicks abandoned. Although prices are low during the summer months, yet chicks will nearly always bring fifteen cents a pound when two and one half pounds weight each. More can be obtained when special market or customers are sought. But there is at least one good market for all the chicks that can be raised, and that is on the family table. One enterprising farmer rejoices that he has young and tender chickens on his table every month in the year. When a hen desires to sit he allows her to do so. If he gets good prices he sells, and if not he consumes the fowls and consequently purchases less fresh meat.

BEGINNERS SHOULD LEARN.

A mistake at first is sometimes beneficial, as it teaches the beginner what he should avoid. Nearly all who engage in poultry at first have their own ideas and peculiarities. They are willing to accept advice and learn, but they have some plan or invention on which they have depended, and until it is tested the beginner will not be satisfied. The result is usually that a mistake is made, and one which could have been avoided if the beginner had considered the fact that hundreds of others had also been "discoverers" of old and abandoned methods before him. The most experienced persons, however, make mistakes, and they profit by them. When one is determined to succeed, and seeks assistance or advice, the object should be not so much to learn what should be done as what not to do. As a rule, there is too much done for poultry by beginners. They make their hens too fat, waste food and devote more labor than is necessary. When one has found out how to avoid mistakes he will have passed through the most difficult portion of poultry management, and may learn how to improve and increase the pockets.

CLEAN YARDS.

Every time the yard is spaded the filth will be turned under, and this is a necessity with small yards. The amount of manure that accumulates on the surface of the yard, not only from droppings, but also from the waste food, is quite large, and the crops grown thereon will be large, as the richer the ground the thicker the seeds may be sown. The land will also be self-manured, as the hens will evenly scatter the droppings themselves, no hauling or handling of the manure being necessary; but if no use can be found for the droppings that are collected from under the roosts they can also be spread over the ground and then be utilized for producing green food.

THE GAIN BY FATTENING.

A fowl weighing six pounds, if of large frame, can be made to weigh eight pounds if made very fat. The gain of two pounds is equivalent to the gain of an extra fowl in four. The fat fowls will also bring at least three cents a pound more in market, which means twenty-four cents gain. The value of the extra food required to gain the two pounds will not exceed eight cents, leaving a clear profit of fourteen cents a fowl, which will be quite a sum for a large flock which otherwise would have to be sacrificed if marketed in inferior conditions.

HOMESEEKERS' EXCURSIONS.

On the first and third Tuesdays in May and June, 1898, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway will sell round-trip excursion tickets (good for 21 days) to a great many points in South and North Dakota and other western and southwestern states, at practically one fare for the round trip. Take a trip west and see what an amount of good land can be purchased for very little money. Further information as to rates, routes, prices of farm lands, etc., may be obtained on application to any coupon ticket agent or by addressing Robt. C. Jones, Traveling Passenger Agent, 40 Carew Bldg., Cincinnati, O.

ROUP CURES.

What to do to cure roup is the most frequent question. Roup includes many forms of disease, among them being those of a tubercular nature. When we can cure consumption, asthma, bronchitis and catarrh in human beings then may an inquiry be made in regard to curing roup. And then the remedy. When a member of the family is sick doses of medicine are given frequently—perhaps every fifteen minutes—yet there may be no cure. In the face of this fact the inquiry comes for a remedy that requires in its use or application labor that could not possibly be bestowed on fowls. The oft-repeated explanation of "I gave the fowl the remedy and it did no good" is excusable, as it is just as impossible to cure a fowl with a single dose of medicine as it is to expect a sick man to get up and walk with the same treatment. When a contagious disease appears in the flock, get rid of the flock if the disease does not soon disappear, as it may be waste of time, labor and money to battle with it.

WHEAT AND MILK.

The value of foods is according to their composition. If wheat contains eighty-five per cent of dry matter (fifteen per cent being water), the eighty-five pounds of dry matter may be estimated at \$2.00, or about two and one third cents a pound. Milk at three cents a quart is about one and one half cents a pound, hence one hundred pounds of milk would cost \$1.50, of which about fifteen pounds (at the highest) would be solid matter. Milk averages only twelve pounds of solids to the hundred pounds. The grain is probably the cheaper, but the milk solids are the more complete in the food elements. Bran is cheaper than either, and to economize in feeding bran should be given with the milk by mixing the milk with the soft food. Milk is not sufficiently concentrated, hence the hens cannot drink enough of it to satisfy themselves.

GAPE-WORMS AND WORK.

It is urged that it is useless to try remedies for gape-worms when they can be so easily removed by the tip of a feather being inserted in the windpipe. The claim is true; but if one had six hundred chicks, all gaping at the same time, in brooders, and one chick a minute is relieved, it would take ten hours to finish the work, and some of the chicks would be dead before relieved. The best and easiest remedy is to mix one teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine with every quart of corn-meal necessary, moisten it, feed it to the chicks, and scatter air-slaked lime freely in the runs. The turpentine is inhaled, and as the least quantity of vapor reaches the windpipe it destroys the embryo gape-worms.

SEEDS FOR CHICKS.

Seeds are better for young chicks than too much soft food. There are many seeds that can be utilized, but which are almost unknown to some. For very young chicks the seeds of millet, rape and hemp are excellent, and as the chicks become larger sorghum-seed and buckwheat will be found better than wheat; but a ration of wheat and cracked corn will serve well for them as soon as they are large enough to eat such. If the small seeds are given the chicks they will feather with less difficulty and thrive better than when the foods are restricted to grains.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Geese.—I. A. R., Rockville, Mo., writes: "What is the name of the largest dry-land geese?"

REPLY:—The Toulouse and Embden, which are of the same size.

Turpentine for Gapes.—Mrs. E. M. S., Twenty-mile Strand, Ohio, writes: "Will the editor or the person who wrote the piece 'Gapes in chicks' in the April 15th number please tell me how turpentine on a bread-crumbs can have any effect on the worms in the chick's windpipe when forced down the throat, as the worms are in the windpipe and not in the throat?"

REPLY:—Turpentine destroys the germs in the throat (being a preventive) before they reach the windpipe, and is also inhaled by the chick. Many remedies are used for bronchial disorders in individuals that are swallowed and never enter the bronchial tubes, but as turpentine has given good results it probably enters the windpipe (which is open to a certain extent when chicks have gapes) in sufficient quantity, in some cases, to be effective.

Poisons.—I. R., writes: 1. "Where chicks have the entire run in a small orchard is there any danger of killing them by spraying with Bordeaux mixture, either with or without Paris green?" 2. Will it kill bees? 3. Is it necessary to set duck eggs in nests on the ground in order to have a good hatch?"

REPLY:—1. There is danger from the Paris green. 2. It is so claimed. 3. No.

Light Yolks.—Mrs. S. S. H., Oliver, Va., writes: "The yolks of my hens' eggs are very light-colored. What is the cause of it and what can I do to darken them? The hens are confined in a poultry-yard, but they are let out where grass can be gotten for about one hour every evening."

REPLY:—The coloring matter is due to the feed. Yellow corn, clover and grass in general deepens the color. Color does not indicate quality.

Lump on Breasts.—B. H. S., Plain City, Ill., writes: "What is the matter with my chickens? There is a lump on one side of their breasts; then they jerk their heads to and fro. They linger along, then get very poorly and die. And now some more of my chickens have it."

REPLY:—It is difficult to state unless you give more details and mode of management. It may be due to manner of roosting at night (if they are large), to injury, or even to some inherited scrofulous complaint. There is no remedy that can be applied in such cases without the expenditure of more labor than they are worth, such as making an incision, poulticing, etc.

RAISING BIRDS.

Raising birds, well! Don't they injure your fruit? Honestly, yes they do. They will pick the finest, juiciest peach or apple in your orchard or mine. Why raise them, then? We prefer that a bird that works for us through a good part of the year should spoil a few choice peaches and apples rather than have them disfigured by coddling-worms. But you say, won't they ruin your grapes? Well, yes, they are very fond of grapes, particularly the mocking-bird; but they won't touch them till they are ripe. And they are working for you something like nine months of the year. A small boy with a squib of a gun and some blank cartridges can keep them out of the vineyard. But suppose I haven't the boy? you say; well, if you expect to make a success of farming, gardening and orcharding you'll have to raise a crop of boys, too. But if you should have no boys, I suppose you might, at small expense, borrow a boy from some neighbor who has obeyed the scriptural injunction to "multiply and replenish the earth." A borrowed boy will make a noise and will help the birds eat your grapes, too. But he won't spoil the bunches by picking off a berry here and there. Seriously, we allow the birds the freedom of our orchard. We loose some fruit, but we honestly believe they eat less than the insects would take if they were not present to scavenge and destroy small enemies. We take our chances in partnership with the birds, and the man who likes it can have the wormy fruit.—Texas Farm and Ranch.

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Our Farm.

CALIFORNIA BEET-SUGAR FACTORY.

The new beet-sugar factory now being rapidly constructed near Salinas City is awakening great activity in the real estate and other interests of the Salinas valley. Mr. C. S. Young, who is well known in land affairs, has prepared a sketch of the dimensions and capacity of the new establishment, which will be read with much interest.

THE BUILDINGS.—The main building is to be of brick; the dimensions 106x586 feet, and five stories high. The floor capacity of this building alone will be seven acres. With the other buildings, such as the office, the sheds, buildings for the boilers and lime-kiln house, the store-room, machine-shops, blacksmith-shop, piper-room, carpenter-room, and other structures, it will have a total area of over thirteen acres.

These buildings are within the site set apart for that purpose, the site containing 532 acres. The estimated cost of the site and improvements is \$2,500,000—an amount equal to the cost and equipment of the Valley road from Stockton to Fresno, a distance of 125 miles.

CAPACITY OF THE FACTORY.—This beet-sugar factory, the largest in the world, will have a crushing capacity of 300 tons of beets daily. Estimate fifteen tons of beets to the acre, the factory will crush each day a crop of beets raised annually from 200 acres. To support this factory there will be required a beet-field, if in one body, ten miles long and five miles wide, or a field one half mile wide and 100 miles long. Some idea of this enterprise can be formed when it is known that the factories at Watsonville, Chino, Alvarado and Anaheim, all combined, have a capacity of 2,950 tons a day, or fifty tons less than the factory at Salinas will have; in other words, the factory at Salinas will have a crushing capacity of fifty tons of beets more than all of the other four factories combined in the state of California.

ANTICIPATED ARRANGEMENTS.—There will be employed in this factory between 600 and 700 men, and James Bardin, of Salinas, estimates that there will be forty and a half times the number of men employed in a field of beets than would be employed to do the work in an ordinary wheat-field of the same size. This insures employment in the fields and factory of several thousands of working-men and the construction in the near future of hundreds of homes.

The contract price of beets is \$4 a ton. The average tonnage an acre is estimated at fifteen, or a gross profit of about \$60 an acre. Sometimes the profit is much larger than this amount. One man in Salinas states that in one year on 225 acres he realized a net profit of \$13,350.93, or an average of \$59.23 an acre.

The amount of sugar estimated to be produced on 30,000 acres is enormous, as a few figures will demonstrate. Assuming fifteen tons to be an average yield an acre and 18 per cent is the saccharine matter in the beet, there would be produced annually from this acreage 162,000,000 pounds of sugar. The amount will be better appreciated when it is known that it will take 8,100 cars to transport this to the market, or it will take 405 freight-trains of twenty cars each in a train. As the average length of a car is thirty-seven feet, this annual output of sugar, if loaded on a continuous train of cars, would require a train fifty-seven miles long. Assuming the weight of sugar to be fifty-five pounds to the cubic foot, this annual output of sweetness would cover an area equal to a field of sixty-six acres to a depth of twelve inches.—Pacific Rural Press.

"Considering the hundreds of orders I have sent in," writes Mr. George R. Grimes, Geuda Springs, Kansas, "you may be surprised to learn I have only worked about half the time, on account of having malaria and chills. Peerless Atlas is a superb seller. There could be 3,000 subscriptions taken within a radius of forty miles here. Everybody can be interested in it, and the price is nearly always a surprise, it is so low."

"I wish to thank your firm for your liberal way of treating your agents. You publish first-class literature and it certainly meets the popular demand the best of any I know of. I had you an order for 53 Peerless Atlas and other goods; also \$5 on account; collect the balance through the First National Bank, San Diego."—H. H. Scott, Coronado, San Diego county, Cal.

Queries.

READ THIS NOTICE.

Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Celery-plants Going to Seed.—H. Z. E., Carbondale, Col., writes: "Please tell me why my celery makes so many seed-stalks? The seed was sown February 1st, in greenhouse, and grew rapidly till time of setting out. I have raised celery successfully for six years until the past season, when one half went to seed."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—Sometimes the trouble seems to be with the seed, but the most likely cause of the celery having gone to seed was too early sowing. We seldom sow our celery-seed for earliest crop now much before March 1st., for fear of having the plants go to seed.

Rhubarb-Cotton-seed for Poultry.—C. H., Tallahassee, Fla., writes: "What soil elements are necessary for the successful growth of rhubarb? There is something lacking in our soil, and we do not know what to supply. Artificial fertilizers are exclusively used in this section.—Also please state whether cotton-seed or any of its products can be used with profit for poultry-food. The seed is only nine or ten cents a bushel here."

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—I imagine that humus is the missing element. Grow crops of crimson clover, cow-peas, etc., and plow them under.—I have no personal experience with cotton-seed, but am sure that it is no safe food for poultry, not even in small quantities. Use the seed as a nitrogenous fertilizer.

Cauliflowers—Rat-terrier.—Subscriber, Md., writes: "Please inform me how to grow cauliflower, when to sow the seed, best varieties, etc.?—Also, what is about the size of a full-blooded rat-terrier? Where can one be had, and probable cost?"

REPLY BY T. GREINER:—For early cauliflower sow seed under glass in February, transplant to cold frame in March, and set plants in open ground just as soon as the soil conditions will permit. The soil should be very rich, rather moist, but well drained, and kept under thorough tillage. When plants begin to form heads, tie the outer leaves over the heart to shade it. Cauliflowers cannot stand our full summer heat and sunshine. For late crop we sow seed in May or June. Snowball and Early Erfurt are our favorite sorts, and we like the Puget Sound seed.—Who among our readers will volunteer information on rat-terriers?

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

A Sick Dog.—J. W. C., Durban, N. C. I cannot answer your question. Your description is too superficial. There may be a complication of diseases.

Infections Abortion.—H. H., Alta, Ill. Please see answer given in the last number of this paper to P. H., Kanapolis, Kansas.

Crooked Neck.—J. G. E. L., Point Lookout, Utah. You say your cow threw herself in the stall and "kinked" her neck a month ago. Please see answer given to C. F. J., Gering, Nebraska, in the last number of this paper.

Itching.—H. Y. S., Faribault, Minn. If your cow, otherwise healthy, is constantly troubled with an itching sensation, although neither the presence of lice nor of any skin disease can be discovered, send her to a good pasture, and the trouble very likely will cease.

Paralytic Pigs.—J. O. S., East Mill Creek, Utah. Answers to questions like yours have recently been given in nearly every number of this paper. In your special case the close in an in-breeding practised, according to your own statement, for a number of years has probably very much to do with the trouble in question, at least as far as the predisposing causes are concerned.

Shakes His Head and Rubs His Nose.—J. H. S., Logansport, Ind. You say your driving-horse, if not eating, almost constantly shakes his head and rubs his nose, and that it seems as if there is something up in his nostrils. Perhaps there is something high up in the nasal cavities that does not belong there. Have the same examined with a mirror, or with a speculum, by a veterinarian, and you will probably find out what is wrong.

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since she dropped her calf five weeks ago, and that her yield of milk is unsatisfactory, conditions which may be produced by almost any chronic disease, and therefore only indicate that your heifer, or cow rather, is ailing and nothing more.—Concerning your mare, which you say is eighteen years old, the fact that she is declining in spite of good food, unless due to old age, is likewise a concomitant of various chronic ailments, and therefore of no diagnostic value. The violent colic spasms of which you speak may have been the result of overfeeding, or in other words, of the animal having eaten more food than its weak digestive organs were able to digest.

Cut Her Teat.—O. L., Shicksbury (?), Pa. If the teat of your cow, when wounded by the barbed wire, had not been greased, but had been thoroughly cleaned, made aseptic, and the cut had been closed by carefully uniting its borders with a few neat stitches, and then the whole been protected by means of a suitable aseptic dressing, all further trouble very likely would have been prevented. As it is now, the cow having calved, the quarter of the udder seriously inflamed and the old wound broken open, you will have to call on a competent veterinarian to treat the case and to perform the necessary surgical operations; or if you attempt the treatment yourself, no matter how explicit the instructions may be, you will succeed in totally ruining the affected quarter, and may even endanger the life of the cow.

Probably a Curb.—C. H. E., Money, N. C. All that I can make out from your description is that your young mare has a curb. If such is the case, apply once every four days a little ointment composed of biniodide of mercury, one part, and hog's lard, eight to twelve parts, and rub it in in a thorough manner on the curb (the elevated swelling on the posterior surface of the hock-joint). Besides this, exempt the animal from any kind of hard work, but particularly from any service under the saddle and from heavy draft over hilly roads. The local treatment may be continued for from two to four weeks. It will, of course, first increase the swelling caused by the inflammation produced in the skin, but after this has disappeared a decrease of the swelling or enlargement beneath will soon be observable.

A Very Tender Mouth.—W. A. W., Richfield, Pa. If the mouth of your horse, probably a young animal, is too sensitive, the bit used is probably an unsuitable one in so far as it brings too much pressure upon the toothless border of the jaw, usually rather thin or sharp in young horses, and much higher in some than in others. The pressure of the bit, particularly in a tender-mouthed animal, should be proportionately distributed between the toothless border and the tongue. A bit therefore suitable for one horse may be altogether unsuitable for another one, because the thickness of the tongue and the height of the border of the jaw are not in all horses in the same proportion to each other. I therefore advise you to select for your horse a thick and rather straight bit, straight enough at least to bring a proper amount of pressure upon the tongue, and thus relieving, to a certain extent, the border; to keep the bit scrupulously clean, and to drive the horse with a light and easy hand; but particularly to avoid any rude handling and jerking on the lines.

Bloody Milk—Garget.—P. J. C., Edna, Minn. In your cow the "bloody milk" is evidently caused by a congested condition of the mammary gland, and this is best relieved by more frequent milking, and for a time at least, by a lighter diet (less food).—Garget in a vast majority of cases is produced if the sugar of milk is by bacteria action changed into lactic acid, and thus the casein of the milk thrown out of solution, separated and formed into clots. This most frequently happens if by either neglected or careless or indifferent milking an undue accumulation (shutting up or stagnation) of the milk in the milk cisterns and lactiferous ducts is brought about. The clots once produced will act as foreign bodies, and the rapidly increasing number of bacteria will keep up and spread the morbid process. Neglected and negligent or careless milking, therefore, may justly be accused as the primary cause. As the treatment necessarily must consist in removing the cause of the morbid process, the bacteria and the clots of coagulated casein, and as the same can be removed without permanent injury to the animal only by milking, very frequent and vigorous milking constitutes the only rational and effective remedy. The milking must be very frequent, so as to give the rapidly multiplying bacteria no time to propagate, and must be vigorous in order to break up and to remove the clots.

A Bunch (?) on a Leg.—J. J. C., Schuyler, N. Y. Your description is very indefinite, and I have no means of knowing what morbid change it is you call a "bunch." I therefore cannot answer your question. If the cow cannot use the affected hind leg, that is, cannot put any weight upon it, it is even possible that a bone has been broken. The best you can do is to have the cow examined by a veterinarian.

Itching.—T. M., Portland, N. Y. The itching sensation of your horse, which latter, evidently, is not affected with any infectious skin-disease, may possibly be due to too much rich food and insufficient exercise, or in other words, to an abnormal accumulation of the products of waste in the cutaneous tissues. Give the horse a physic, say a pill containing one ounce of aloes de Barbados, then feed a little less and give more exercise.

So-called Sweeney.—B. F. H., Sumter, S. C. Exempt your mule from all kinds of work, allow the same voluntary exercise, and give sufficient quantities of good and nutritious food, or at this season of the year send the same to pasture, and in from six to eight months the now shrunken muscles will regain their normal condition. Avoid any application of sharp liniments, etc., and all nonsensical operations, such as roweling, cutting holes into the skin, blowing air into the connective tissues, and so forth.

A Little Suspicious.—E. L., Florence, Pa. A slight cough even in cattle may have various causes. At best it is but one symptom common to nearly all diseases of the respiratory apparatus, and therefore, by itself alone, exceedingly seldom sufficient to base upon it a diagnosis. Still, if it is met with in a Jersey cow, it is, as a rule, sufficiently suspicious to make it advisable to subject the animal to the tuberculin test, unless the cause of the coughing is known.

Swine-plague.—G. H. C., Carrollton, Ill. What you describe is genuine swine-plague, or so-called hog-cholera. Swine-plague is a disease in which the morbid process is liable to locate in any part of the body, consequently a disease which presents entirely different symptoms in different cases. It is true it is not common that such a variety of symptoms as you describe makes its appearance at the same time in one and the same herd, but I have repeatedly made the same observations, and there is no doubt in your case concerning the diagnosis. Hog-cholera is a misnomer anyhow, which has been productive of considerable confusion, and has caused a great deal of damage.

A Litter of Dead Pigs.—W. J. C., Perry, Okla. The fact that your brood-sow's litter of five pigs was born dead and that she eat the last pig before you were able to remove it, may possibly be due to the fact that her diet consisted exclusively of corn and the probably sour contents of the slop-barrel. Swine, and brood-sows in particular, should receive a variety of food containing in digestible combinations all the elements required by the animal organism. If such is not the case, the animal organism necessarily will soon feel the want of the elements necessary, will decline in vitality and a morbid (vitiated) appetite will be produced. The effect, of course, is more rapid in a fetus than in a grown animal.

A Sore Produced a Year Ago—Bloating.—W. C. T., Anita, Iowa. You will do best by having that old sore of your cow, produced a year ago, and which, after it was finally brought to healing, is now open again and probably presenting a fistulous character, treated by your veterinarian who brought it to a healing the first time.—The bloating of your cattle after eating clover you will be able to prevent if you will observe the following rules: 1. Never feed any clover, that is, in wilting or heated condition, after it has been cut. 2. Feed only small quantities at a time, or feed first some dry and sound food before the clover is given. 3. Let each animal have a pinch of salt with each meal of clover.

An Ailing Heifer—Eighteen Years Old.—J. S. B., Otego, N. Y. All that you say about your heifer is that she became very thin

Our Fireside.

WOMANLY CONVERSATION.

Keep watch on your words, my sisters,
For words are wonderful things.
They are sweet, like the bees' fresh honey,
Like the bees, they have terrible stings.
They can bless like the warm, glad sunshine,
And brighten a lonely life;
They can cut in the strife of anger
Like an open, two-edged knife.

Let them pass through your lips unchallenged
If their errand is true and kind—
If they come to support the weary,
To comfort and help the blind.
If a bitter, revengeful spirit,
Prompt the words, let them be unsaid,
They may flash through a brain like lightning,
Or fall on the heart like lead.

Keep them, if they're cold and cruel,
Under bar and lock and seal,
The wounds they make, my sisters,
Are always slow to heal.
God guard your lips and ever,
From the time of your early youth,
May the words that you daily utter
Be the words of beautiful truth.

A TRUE KNIGHT OF LABOR

BY KATE TANNATT WOODS.

Author of "A Fair Maid of Marblehead," "The Wooing of Grandmother Grey," "Hidden for Years," "The Minister's Secret," "Hester Hepworth," "Sophia Blount, Spinster," "Six Little Rebels," "Dr. Dick," "Mopsy," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER X.

JOE'S STRANGE LETTER.

WHEN Joe reached his room he found an envelope addressed to himself at "Maloney Castle," Great Bubble Iron Works, Pennsylvania.

It was soiled, and bore evidence of having been opened and sealed a second time. To his amazement there was not one word written inside, only some rough drawings of a house. The first represented a villa surrounded with trees; the second the interior of a room, with books, dolls and a child's playthings; the third a stout, pleasant-looking woman, wearing a small cap on her head; and the fourth showed the woman holding the child in her arms. The drawings seemed to be the work of an inexperienced hand; they were faulty in perspective, and bore evidence of frequent erasures, but the faces were clear and distinct, showing the natural talent of the artist for portraiture.

"Can it be Meg herself?" asked Joe, as he examined them again and again. "She was fond of her pencil, and her mother had great talent in that way. The face of the woman, although roughly drawn, has wonderful expression. The child seems more uncertain, as if the worker was not quite sure of his or her subject. Can it mean that she is situated as these drawings suggest, and has taken this method of telling me? Why not write as well as draw?"

The more Joe puzzled over it the more convinced did he become that little Meg had made the drawings. He detected also a peculiar loop in the J on the envelope, which the child made when writing his name. It was repeated over and over on the slate, now on his table carefully covered with a piece of paper, because it was the last she had done before she was taken from him. Joe decided to dress and then hurry down to Jasper instead of going to bed. The captain was glad to see him, and smiled at Joe's impatient "Well, what is it? Any trace?"

"Yes. I am following up that woman, and have tracked a carriage."

"Then the abductor had assistants?"

"Undoubtedly. The original plan was to have the woman help out, but it failed."

"I have some news, too," said Joe. "Look at these drawings."

Captain Jasper examined them closely.

"Ah," he said, "a blind to throw us off the scent."

"No," said Joe. "That is Meg's own work."

"Are you sure?"

"As sure as a man can be. In the first place, she always makes her Js like the one here; in the next place, she inherits her mother's taste for drawing; the family thought at one time of having the mother study portrait-painting. That old lady's face is a portrait, captain."

"How about the child?"

"Poor. I don't think she could work without a copy, and drew herself as she fancied she looked."

"But why not write, if she can send drawings?"

"Probably she is not allowed to write; or again, this may have been sent by some one who found it or picked it up."

"All directed to you, Joe? I can't think that."

"I can. That was brought to me by some friendly hand, and if we could find out who brought it we could find Meg."

"Exactly; but it shows me something more, Joe. It seems to say that the house where she

is staying is not a thousand miles away, and also that the child is well cared for."

"There we agree perfectly," said Joe.

"Now as to the carriage," resumed the captain. "It came from a distance. Not one of the towns about here has such a carriage."

"How do you know that?"

"My men have followed it up, and we have witnesses to prove that it took a course east, then west, then east again, and there we lose it."

"Then you begin to think with me that the child has not been hurried off to Europe?"

"No. We are convinced of that. There is too much money involved to risk such a thing just now."

"What do you advise, then?"

"To keep a sharp lookout nearer home, and also to splice your patience a little, for the longer we keep Smithers' case out of court the safer your little friend will be."

"Why?"

"Well, Joe, when you have seen as much of this sort of business as I have you will know that an enemy in jail gives courage to all plotters. While Smithers is behind the bars there is no especial hurry about sending the child too far out of that polished rascal's sight. The man he fears is Smithers. He has reason to."

"Why should he not fear me?"

"For several reasons. In the first place he does not know that you have returned to this country. He does know that the portion of the estate which was left to you remains untouched."

"Who did he suppose took the child in charge when Smithers was so suddenly arrested? He

found out; and the worst of it is that women adore him and even pity him."

"They have always done that," said Joe, "until they knew him. I knew one, however, who for years shuddered when he approached her. She had reason to fear him, poor girl."

"You mean his wife?"

"Yes, his long-suffering, patient wife."

"Is it true that she had an unbearable temper?"

"Nothing could be more false. She bore his persecutions and taunts like an angel. She did not let even her sister know until she learned it by the merest accident, and the father refused to believe it until he had been in the house with him during his daughter's illness."

"Was there a divorce, Joe?"

"No. It would have been better for her if there had been. Her father insisted upon it, when he discovered his unfaithfulness, but it was not done, as the old man died so suddenly. The poor woman had an idea that she must bear all things rather than cause a scandal, which might reflect upon her child in the future."

"I see. Proud and honorable."

"Precisely, and loving also. She idolized that man. She married for love, and in a few short months she learned that he had selected her because she was gifted, had a rich father, and could insure him the social position which his profession demanded. His own brutal statements prove this. Captain, we must rescue her as well as the child. Do help me to devise some plan."

"Give me another night to sleep on it, and I will. You must go to bed yourself. Leave

all manner of people, especially domestics, you will feel quite happy if one order in ten is carried out. We who are better informed have much to do in teaching others the sacredness of a promise or a duty."

The doctor began to feel uncomfortable. Had he not broken promise after promise to those nearest him?

He paid some compliments to Mrs. Golden without the slightest appearance of the anger burning within him, and bade her good-night, charging her again to admit no one, and to be very sure of his signal before she permitted him to enter.

When the door had closed upon him the man stamped his feet with rage.

"Fool," he said, "Miserable fool. Her jealous temper has made her disobey me, but she shall suffer for it. She shall suffer. The child must be saved or all will be lost, and she will not get well if these shocks to her nervous system are repeated."

He had gone but a short distance down the dark path leading to the gateway when he heard the sound of scurrying feet, and in a few moments a woman ran almost into his arms. She was evidently going to the house.

The darkness of the place and the suddenness of the encounter did not throw him off his guard. His temper expressed itself in the fierce grasp upon the woman. He held her with one arm while he took a match from his pocket and lighted it upon his boot.

"Celeste," he exclaimed, as the light fell upon the captive's face, "how dare you? Where have you been?" He dragged her forcibly down the path until they reached a secluded spot, made deusly dark by heavy shrubbery. "What are you doing? Explain this! Quick, or I will strangle you!"

The woman made no response until he had repeated his questions several times; then she said, in a choking voice:

"Loosen your grip if you want me to tell you."

He did so at once.

"Come to the house where we can talk," she said.

"No, I will not. You will tell me here and now. In ten minutes I must take that midnight train. Choose your words. Why are you out here?"

"To get some things left for us at the gate."

"Why do you leave them until this late hour?"

"To please you. As you wished no one to come here."

"What things have you in that bundle?"

"Some dainties for your patient," said the woman, with a sneer.

"Come. None of that, or you will repent it. That child is your best friend."

"I wish she was dead."

"Fool. If you want me to keep my promise to you, remember it will only be done by being faithful to her and to me. What possessed you to go to their rooms?"

"Who said I did?"

"I say so. Tell me."

"I wanted to see the child again, and it was so still I was sure they were both sleeping."

"Is that all, Celeste?"

"Yes. On my word."

"Bah! Your word. What is it good for?"

"As much as yours," said the woman, defiantly.

"Take care. You are in my power, woman. Listen. Never go there again. If you do, there is Paul."

The woman groaned.

"Spy on them if you will. Watch, listen and report to me, but never let them see you."

"I am tired of staying here. It is a prison."

"Of course you are. I am tired of living as I do. I miss your cooking, your neat ways about the house, and you ought to pity me."

"I pity myself."

"Come, come, Celeste, what has put you in this mood? Cheer up. If all goes well, in a few short months you will be in a beautiful home in France and be a lady."

"You have said so a thousand times."

"Yes, and you got jealous of the child and hid her away."

"You need not tell that again. I know it all. You made me a devil and then mock me."

"Poor Celeste," said the doctor, soothingly.

"Come now, listen. You must never go to the town for groceries or supplies any more. I will send you everything you ask for. You may be watched, and I begin to think that it is not safe."

"My disguise is perfect. I should never be known in this blonde wig."

"I am not so sure of that. All the wigs and gowns in the world could not spoil your handsome eyes. Celeste, what has become of that precious brother of yours?"

"Antoine is far away. He will not trouble you any more."

"Good. And the cousin?"

"I know not, and I care not," said the woman, angrily.

"There, there, you need not be so cross. Be patient, girl. In a few months this will end, and then we will take life easy in sunny France."

"Will the child go?"

"Of course, Celeste. She is our bank. She brings us the money for your pretty gowns. If anything happens to her we lose all."

"I hate her," said the woman, vehemently.

"Oh, no you don't. She is quiet and gentle; and when all is to our liking, she can go to school and we will be happy. Eh, Celeste?"



"CELESTE," HE EXCLAIMED, AS THE LIGHT FELL UPON HER FACE

knew that Smithers had taken her from those vile people who failed to carry out their designs."

"I learn that he was told that a fellow-workman of Smithers had taken her; a low, common man who worked under Smithers and felt indebted to him for some kindness."

Joe laughed. "How did you get hold of that?"

"From the arch plotter himself."

"Do you mean to say that you have actually seen and talked with him?"

"Yes, Joe; and you are described as a half idiot, bearing a nickname given you for that reason. Therefore you are harmless. Only a poor, feeble-minded man who works for his daily bread, and knows no more save to be faithful. In short, a true 'Gullible Joe.'"

"Captain, you are a wonder; but do tell on what pretext you gained admission to that man's presence?"

"At present I am his patient. My symptoms all point to Bright's disease, and I am to see him twice a week. Please remember that my residence is in the town where you were born."

"For what reason, captain?"

"Chiefly to make him ask questions and disarm suspicion. I anticipate a very pleasant time with my physician; but we must work cautiously, Joe. He has a tongue that would deceive the very elect, and his good looks and position are used for all they are worth to cover up his wickedness."

"Then you now believe with me that he is wicked?"

"He is a man as cruel as he is false. He would stoop to any crime if he did not fear being

those drawings with me, please, and we will see what can be done."

Joe went home and was soon sound asleep. His "day-night" was not half over when Mrs. Maloney called him.

"It's a shame to disturb you, sir," said she, "but they have sent for you to come to the Emergency hospital as fast as you can. There's a man there as must say a word to ye."

CHAPTER XI.

POOR PAUL.

The doctor's anger when he found that his devoted Celeste had left her post without his permission made him speechless for a few moments. He was ready to torture her for this treasonable conduct, but his cunning did not desert him. Mrs. Golden must not know. She was too shrewd a woman to be silenced by ordinary tricks.

He went up-stairs again, and in the lightest and airiest of tones assured Mrs. Golden that poor Celeste was sound asleep, and he had not the heart to disturb her. She should, however, suffer for her morbid curiosity.

"It seems quite natural to me," said Mrs. Golden. "There is something almost uncanny in serving people week after week without seeing them. I have tempted to give the poor woman a kind word in person, as I frequently do by means of the speaking-tube."

"That shows your kind heart, Mrs. Golden; but Celeste must obey orders. She knows very well that I never permit the slightest variation when I have said that anything must be done."

"Ah, doctor," responded the nurse, "when you are as old as I am, and have labored with

"Can I have Paul with me?"

"Did you not promise to keep him out of my sight?"

"I have done so, but I cannot live without him. He harms no one; he cannot hear; he is too dull to see, and he is mine. Let him come here, then I will stay and do your bidding. If not, I will run away. I cannot bear this. I think, and think, and—"

"Celeste, if you attempt to run away I shall put you in prison, and then all your story will come out, and where will Paul be then?"

The woman groaned. "I want my poor boy, and he pines for me. I will kill any one who dares to harm him."

"Then be kind to another woman's child."

"Was you kind to her? Did you spare her? Did you not have her put away and make me swear falsely? Oh, master, you are hard on me after all I have suffered."

"Hush, girl; you are talking too loud. What do you want? Stay. I will give you some money for Paul; only never let him come where I am."

"I will not touch your money for him. I never have; but this lonely place drives me wild. Let my poor, foolish boy come here and keep me from thinking. He is mine, and you have wronged him."

"Very well, Celeste, I will humor you in this; but you must swear to be kind to the other one, and never disobey me again."

"I will swear to anything if I may have Paul. Good-night, master, good-night."

CHAPTER XII.

JOE'S MYSTERIOUS GUEST.

Curtis Crossman, one of Philadelphia's shrewdest lawyers, sat in his office with a puzzled look upon his usually placid face. He had just received a telegram from Joe. Business was pressing. His clerks were all at work, and his stenographer also, and here was a call to meet Jasper and Joe at the hotel near the "works" on Sunday or Saturday afternoon. He had said to Joe when they had parted that he must wire him if anything special came up, and he would run down to the "works."

"I was a goose to do it," said Crossman to himself. "But that man is magnetic; he just draws you to him. When I feel out of sorts with all creation, Joe quietly rests me; and I wonder why the devil it is? I took the case because I like the man, and not for the money in it. How can I go down Sunday? I have promised madam to take her away on a little trip. It would be too tame for her there while we are planning. I have it. She will go. Her friend, Maude Carroll, has gone there to spend a week with that bright son of hers, and madam will enjoy a visit with her. They get up good dinners of a Sunday, as so many of the companies' officers board there, and I shall pat myself on the back for thinking of this plan for combining pleasure with business."

In order to perfect the plan, Mr. Crossman wired Joe that he would come down on Saturday, and then telephoned his wife to get ready for a trip to Bubbletown for Sunday. "Maude Carroll is to be there, and you will have a fine time to talk over your old school-days."

"I thought we were going to New York," telephoned back Mrs. Crossman, whose visions of shopping and church-going were thus suddenly dispelled.

"We will manage that another time. Business calls me to the 'works.'"

The average American woman never disputes the claims of business. She has had its powerful rivalry to contend with for several generations, and whatever mental reservations she may have, she never argues the point, even when it includes going out to see a man.

Mrs. Crossman changed her plans from the great metropolis to the hustling, dirty settlement among the hills without even a murmur. Indeed, she was glad to think of the good it might do her husky husband, and it would seem delightful to meet sweet Maude Carroll again, who was so much missed in society.

This arrangement was made known to Carroll by Joe himself.

"Capital," said Carroll; "and now, old man, you must dine with us."

"Impossible," said Joe. "You forget that I am a laborer now, and a dress-coat would not fit my shoulders."

"Nevertheless, you must come. Why, Joe, my mother has heard so much of you that she mentions you in nearly every letter. Come up and let us have a tune or two for her."

"Perhaps I will join you in the evening," said Joe, "if our business is satisfactory."

Friday was cold and disagreeable, and the snowflakes fell on the mountains and in the valleys. When Joe started for the works he took a lantern with him, and went as usual across the railroad tracks. It was a dangerous spot; a perfect network of rails and no houses, save some shanties near the bank of the river, occupied by the lowest class of workmen—the newly arrived foreigners, who, without knowing the language of the country, still understood the power of a boss and the worth of our money.

Joe went rapidly on, with the snow striking him in the face at every step, and the wind doing its best to keep him from reaching his destination. He enjoyed battling with the elements; a good stiff wind is a foe that rouses a man's mettle. Just as he had crossed one section of the tracks and had taken a turn near some old sheds, he was surprised to hear a voice calling "Stop! Stop!" in an imperative tone. All prudent men went armed in that

quarter, and Joe put one hand on his pocket as a man came close to him from behind a shed.

"No shootin'-irous, Joe. It's only me, Duffy. I want to give you a hint. There's a bit of devilry going on in that shanty yonder, and you're the man to stop it."

"What is it, Duffy?"

"Why, there's a little hunched-back chap, who's half witted, and he's been hanging around all day. He keeps askin' for Joe, and he's deaf as a post. Those rascals have got him in there, stripped to the skin, a-tryin' to make him dance on a barrel-head, and he's wild, poor devil."

"Scamps!" said Joe. "Isn't it bad enough to be deformed without being tortured by brutes? Thank you for tellin' me, Duffy. It is in the Hungarian camp, is it not? Where is the boss of that gang?"

"Gone to town to have a spree, I reckon. They are just fiends without a boss."

It was a pitiful sight which met Joe's eyes. Some thirty or more men had gathered about their victim, and were screaming at him until his eyes were extended with real fright. Every now and then he would utter a piercing shriek which only increased their mirth.

Joe did not wait to utter a word. He sprang to the boy's side and put one strong arm about him; with the other he pointed a finger of scorn at the crowd—a more potent weapon than any pistol.

Some of the group slunk away and left the shanty. Others muttered in their own tongue, but all felt that a boss who must be obeyed had arrived. Joe pointed to the boy's garments, and made them understand that they must be brought to him. Two men gave them to him, holding them out at arm's length, as if they feared too close contact with that powerful arm. The boy clung to Joe frantically, and began to laugh wildly. He had found a friend, and in his excited condition he must exhibit his gladness in some form. He was too brave to cry, and too honest to conceal his delight. When his clothing was put on once more, Joe took him in his strong arms and carried him out into the darkness and storm, the lad clinging to his neck and making sounds of joy.

It did not take long to find him a comfortable corner in the works and to give him food

and drink from his own supply. When he had eaten and said "thank you," Joe sat down near him and said, close to his ear, "What did you want of me, my boy? I am Joe."

"I knew, I knew. When the cattle belov'd at me, I said Joe will come, and you came. Now you are my friend; ha, ha, my friend!"

"Yes, your friend, my poor lad; but tell me your name."

"Paul."

"Paul what?"

"No, not Paul What, only Paul."

"Why did you wish to see me?"

"The little lady makes your face. She cries 'Uncle Joe, dear Uncle Joe,' and I say I will find him."

Joe's face lighted up with a great hope. Could this poor idiot tell him of Meg?

"My poor boy, tell me about the little lady. Where is she?"

"Where the fire dances; dances on the wall, and the trees go 'Whoo, whoo' outside, and the big mother rocks and rocks, and says 'Peggy darling.'"

"Who is the big mother, Paul?" asked Joe.

"She's Cattie; only Cattie, and she minds the little lady in the pretty house."

"In the woods, Paul?"

"Yes, in the dark woods. Paul loves them."

"What does the little lady do all day?"

"She looks in the book and talks and makes pictures and writes to dear Joe."

"Where are the letters she writes, Paul. Where do they go?"

"All in the big fire. Snap, snap!"

"Do you talk to her, Paul?"

"Aha, aha! He thinks I talk to my little lady. The mother would flog Paul then. The mother does not know Paul knows. He climbs up on the long fence by the door, and looks in at the window, and no one knows. Cattie not know; little lady, no; the mother, no. Oh, no, just Paul."

"Paul, did you bring me a letter from the little lady?"

The boy laughed. "Did you, Paul? The little lady makes all letters, big letters, and Cattie she smiles, and then when the window is open and they go to eat, Paul gets one, for he goes where the wind goes in at the window, and Cattie never knows."

"How did you find your way to me at the house?"

"Paul didn't. A man did."

"What man?"

"Paul's little lady cry, cry hard for Uncle Joe, and then he goes a long way, and he finds the wood is long and the birds are up high, and then he sees a man with his face black, and he asks for the name on the letter, and the man is not cross. He takes it, and he lives where Joe lives."

"Did he tell you his name?"

"No."

"Paul, have you more letters for me?"

"Plenty in the stocking. See?"

"Will you give me one?"

The boy drew forth his treasures. They were indeed the work of little Meg.

(To be Continued.)

ENDURANCE OF THE POLAR DOG.

Roughly speaking, any Polar dog will pull a sledge with half a man's load, but he will take it twice as far in a day as a man can. A man's load may be reckoned as two hundred pounds. And though the Polar dog is accustomed to raw meat, and to carouses long and deep on newly killed game, he adapts himself to circumstances, and will do such work as I have stated on a ration of one pound of pemmican a day. What is pemmican? It is simply dried and pounded beef, enveloped in a greasy coat of fat and suet, and then slowly heated and poured in a molten condition into can or skin. . . .

But the power of the Arctic dog varies, and the larger kinds are capable of doing really formidable work. Peary, for example, occasionally used only three dogs to drag a sledge load of five hundred pounds, and we have it on record that he traveled at considerable speed behind only two dogs with a similar load.

On the other hand, when sleighing is to be prolonged, it is necessary to have full teams, for dogs, like reindeer, soon degenerate with regular work. Moreover, the mortality is very high. It will be remembered that Peary started on the first of his long journeys with twenty and returned with five dogs. That in a subsequent year no fewer than ninety dogs were taken, and only twenty survived.—Forest and Stream.



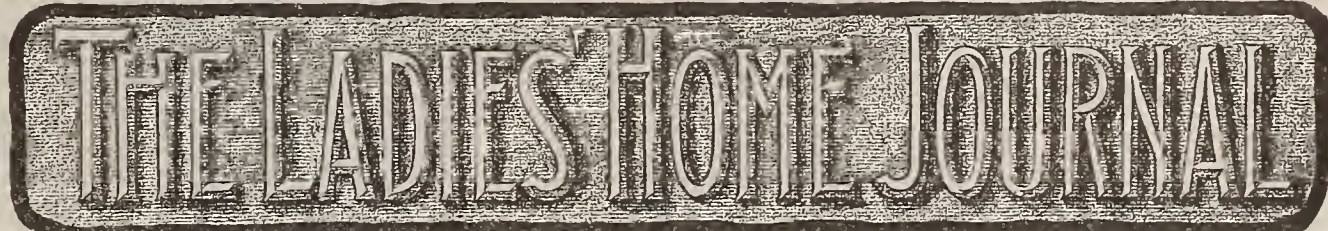
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THE BARBERRY HEDGE.

BY HOPE DARING.



THE front porch of the Loyd farmhouse faced the east. Therefore, at three o'clock on a Sunday afternoon in July, it lay in the cool shadow of the great white house. Seated among the gay cushions of the hammock was Patty Loyd, the only child and the heiress of the broad acres. Patty was a pretty dimpled blonde of twenty. In a soft, white lawn, with her chestnut hair curling away from her low brow, she made a charming picture.

The other occupant of the porch was John Manchester, the son of Richard Manchester, whose well-tilled fields joined Loyd farm. He was tall, stalwart and dark, while his thoughtful face betokened a mind alert and cultured.

The air was heavy with the scent of the heliotrope growing on a flower-stand at John's right. The beds of geraniums and nasturtiums made glowing bits of color on the velvety green sward. In the branches of a great apple-tree a mother robin chirped drowsily to her brood. All was peaceful and free from discord.

But there was a serpent even in Eden. As Seth Loyd, the father of Patty, came strolling around the house, coatless and his face flushed with the heat, he bore little resemblance to the traditional tempter of our common mother. Still, his entrance upon the scene was almost as fatal to peace and harmony.

Mr. Loyd sat down upon the steps, fanning himself with his straw hat.

"Hew! Hot weather this, John."

"Yes, it's good for corn," John replied, affably. He did not particularly enjoy the society of Mr. Loyd, but he was Patty's father.

"Yes, but somehow it don't seem to bring on that air piece of yours over there," pointing off to the north, where a corn-field belonging to the Manchesters was in sight. "Poor lay for crop, that. What ails it? You progressive farmers don't seem to have very good crops after all your talk."

The hot blood colored John's cheeks. Mr. Loyd was always sneering at his and his father's farming. Perhaps it would be as well to speak out concerning the corn. In the young man's vexation he forgot that this disagreeable neighbor was the father of the pretty girl opposite.

"Oh," he said, defiantly, "that's plain enough. As long as that hedge of yours stands there we can't expect much of crops in the field next to it. Your own suffer some, but the wind favors you."

"Eh, what's that? What do you mean?" and the old man sat bolt upright and glared at John. "It must be your college learnin' has gone to your head."

This thrust did not quiet John. His attendance upon the state Agricultural College had before been ridiculed by Mr. Loyd.

"I don't think it has. It may have opened my eyes to the cause of what you are pleased to call our failures. You may not know, sir, that research has proven that the pollen of the barberry-bush is hurtful to many growing things. Professor Lutz touched on the subject while I was at college, and I have this summer corresponded with him about this very hedge. He assures me that it is a damage to my father's farm, and could be so proved in court. Botanists claim that this variety of the barberry, the *Berberis vulgaris*, is—"

Here a strange noise interrupted him. It was a cross between a snort and a growl. Only astonishment had kept Seth Loyd quiet thus far. The Latin words, however, restored his power of speech. He sprang to his feet with remarkable agility, considering his sixty-five years.

"You fool!" he shouted. "You blamed idiot! You never had any more brains than your father, and that air schoolu' has spoiled 'em. It is a lie, every word of it."

John, too, arose. Before he could speak Patty's soft voice recalled him to himself.

"Oh, papa, how can you, and on Sunday, too! He don't mean it, John, I know he don't."

John hesitated. Yes, it was—well, injudicious to say the least, to anger Patty's father. He bit his lips and turned half apologetically to the old man, but the mischief was done.

"You keep still, miss," to Patty. "As for you, young man, you walk. Don't you never put foot on my farm ag'in. Hedge hurt your corn! That hedge has always been an eyesore to your father. I'll defend it, you scoundrel. Yes, sir, defend it with the last cent of my money and the last drop of my blood."

It was useless to attempt to reason with him. His rage increased. John was obliged to obey him and depart. He humbly asked Patty's pardon, and received assurance of her continued friendship, even while her father was ordering him never to speak to her again. John strode out of the gate and down the road, and Patty, her blue eyes overflowing with tears, took refuge in her own room.

Seth Loyd strode into the cool, quaint, old-fashioned sitting-room, where his wife was indulging in her Sunday afternoon nap. Mrs. Loyd was a meek little woman, who always managed to fan the flame of her husband's anger by her ill-timed efforts to extinguish it. When his story was told, she said, tearfully:

"Oh, Seth, I jest wouldn't. Like as not, the Manchesters will go to law, and how it would sound for folks to say you was arrested."

This only made matters worse. Mr. Loyd

brought his hands together with a resounding slap, and shouted:

"I wish they'd try it. I'll show Dick Manchester who's got the most money, him or me!"

"Oh, father, don't talk so," and Mrs. Loyd wiped a tear from her cheek. "I most know Patty likes John, and I wouldn't have our girl's heart hurt for all the hedges in the country."

This remark was the one thing needed to raise the passion of Seth Loyd to white heat. Notwithstanding his long trusteeship in the little church near by, he swore, with an awful oath, that Patty should have nothing to do with the Manchesters.

As for John, he also acted unwisely. He went straight home, and finding his father lying under the great walnut-trees which shaded the lawn, he told him the whole story.

Richard Manchester was a much younger man than his neighbor. John was an only child, and as the boy had been motherless since his birth, there was little his father had denied him. But as he listened, the face of the elder man grew hard and stern. This was not the first trouble between Seth Loyd and himself. Manchester's more progressive ways of farming had always been ridiculed by the old man, and more especially had this been the case in the last few years since these very ways had begun to bring in large returns. The hedge had already been a source of dispute, as it took the place of a line fence, and had, when small, often been passed over and trodden on by Manchester's cattle.

"I think I've stood enough from Seth Loyd," Mr. Manchester, senior, said, firmly. "I believe I'll test the matter of the hedge in the courts, although I am opposed, on general principles, to lawing. You kept Professor Lutz's letters, didn't you, John?"

"Yes, sir, but—"

"But what?" the father asked, impatiently. "I hope old Loyd did not frighten you."

"I don't think I am afraid," John answered, smiling a little. "But there's Patty."

"Patty? Oh, yes, I see. Well, John, I'll go a little slow for your sake, but Seth Loyd will never overlook what happened to-day."

Time proved the truth of Richard Manchester's words. Seth Loyd let no opportunity of annoying his neighbor go unimproved. Several times hot words passed between the two men.

John and Patty met at church and in various social ways. There was little chance for conversation, and John determined to see the girl alone and come to a definite understanding with her. Fortune soon favored him.

One sunny afternoon he was drilling wheat. As he turned his team he caught a glimpse of a trim little figure in dark blue strolling leisurely along the road only a few rods from him.

John tied his horse to a convenient tree, hurried across the field, leaped over the fence, and stood leaning against the trunk of a beech when Patty approached.

She started, but the look of joy in her eyes did not escape John's notice.

"Come, Patty, and sit down here," he said, imperatively. "I must talk to you, and there's no telling when I can see you again."

Patty obeyed unquestioningly, and he took his place at her side. The sunlight peered down at them through the screen of silver-green leaves, bringing out glints of brightness in Patty's hair, and in the goldenrod in her lap and a squirrel paused to eye them curiously; but they heeded none of these. There, once more, the story of love was told, the story each retelling of which is the crown of some life.

"Yes, I love you, John," Patty said, her cheeks aglow, "but papa will never, never consent, and I dare not oppose him."

They talked for a long time. John wished to go straight to Seth Loyd and tell him of the engagement, but Patty would not consent.

"We must wait," she said. "Any more trouble would break mamma's heart. I don't know how it will come out, but, John, I will always be true to you."

With this John was obliged to be content. Patty bade him a tearful farewell and went on her way. He sighed as he went back across the field. Surely it was hard that two young lives should be overshadowed by—yes, by a barberry hedge. John smiled and threw back his shoulders proudly. He would wait patiently for a time, but in the end Patty should be his wife.

The autumn wore away, and still the trouble about the hedge increased. Mr. Loyd was planning to set another barberry hedge between his farm and Manchester's. When Richard Manchester learned this he consulted a lawyer, and the trouble was farther from a peaceful settlement than ever.

On a frosty morning late in November Mr. Loyd started for the corn-field, which lay at the extreme back part of his large farm. He was not feeling well, so he hitched a horse to his cart and drove back along the lane until he reached the field where the huskers were busy. Hitching the horse to the fence, he went forward to inspect the work.

When Seth Loyd drove back along the lane he was in a bad humor. There was no use in closing his eyes to the fact—his farm was not doing as well as when he was able to personally give it his attention.

"Everything is going to ruin," he muttered, shivering as the raw wind smote his face. "If I jest had a son! Not but Patty's a girl any man might be proud of, but a boy would look after things for me. There, I believe the top's

blown plumb off of that stack of clover-seed. I told Collins it wasn't right, but you never see a hired man you can tell anything these days."

He drove his horse through the open gate and across the field in the direction of the stack. The young horse threw up her head impatiently at being turned aside from her way to the barn.

This field was the one separated from the Manchester farm by the disputed hedge. Seth Loyd glanced complacently at the neatly trimmed shrubs.

"Looks pretty well in spite of Dick Manchester's grumbling. I'll show him—hey, there, Topsy! Whoa! Whoo, I say!"

A flock of his own turkeys had taken refuge under the barberry hedge. The patriarch of the flock, a huge bronze gobbler, advanced in front of the horse, his wings spread and his shrill voice raised.

Topsy shied. The angry voice of her master and the jerk of the lines added to her excitement. A moment later she was running wildly across the field, with Seth Loyd vainly pulling at the reins and shouting for help.

The old man was sorely frightened. Directly at the foot of the hill which Topsy was descending at breakneck speed was a narrow gully in which stones and refuse had been thrown. There the cart would be overturned. Certain death awaited him unless the horse was stopped.

She was stopped. A man leaped over the hedge, strong hands caught Topsy's bits, and John Manchester's voice bade Mr. Loyd dismount.

He did so, catching his foot and falling headlong. By the time he had regained his feet the men who had been working in the field with John had reached the spot. One of these held the horse by the head, the rest were gathered about a figure which lay prone upon the ground.

"Eh, what's the matter?" Mr. Loyd asked, making his way forward.

"That brute of a horse has about killed John," one of the men said. "His arm is broken, besides that hurt on his head, and I don't know what else."

John Manchester opened his eyes, and supported by one of his companions, struggled to a sitting posture. Although suffering severe pain, he smiled faintly when he met the gaze of Seth Loyd.

"Hope you'll excuse my trespassing," he said, in a hoarse voice. "I really forgot under the excitement of the moment that you had forbidden my coming on your premises."

The words died away on his lips, and he sank back, pale and speechless. Seth Loyd's wrinkled face worked piteously as he turned to the group of men.

"He hain't dead, is he? 'Cause if he is, 'twas me and the barberry hedge that killed him."

It was late the next morning when John Manchester woke from a troubled sleep. The doctor had pronounced his injuries serious, but not dangerous. Some one was sitting close by his bed, and he slowly turned his aching head to see who it was.

"How are you feeling, dear?" and Patty bent over the pillow.

"You here, Patty! Oh, my darling, what does it mean?"

"Hush, you are not to talk. Papa sent me here to help take care of you. It's all right, John. He, he said," and the blushing face dropped low, "that you must get well enough for a wedding on Christmas. That isn't all. See, John," and she darted to the window and raised the shade.

The barberry hedge was in plain sight. John saw the teams and hired men of Mr. Loyd hard at work pulling up the shrubs by the roots.

"Papa said to tell you and your father that the barberry hedge and the trouble it made were things of the past," Patty said, slipping her soft hand into that of her lover.

TEN FACTS ABOUT FLAGS.

To "strike the flag" is to lower the national colors in submission.

Flags are used as the symbol of rank and command, the officers using them being called "flag officers." Such flags are square, to distinguish them from other banners.

A "flag of truce" is a white flag, displayed to an enemy to indicate a desire for parley or consultation.

The white flag is the sign of peace. After a battle, parties from both sides often go out to the field to rescue the wounded or bury the dead under the protection of the white flag.

The red flag is the sign of defiance, and is often used by revolutionists. In our service it is a mark of danger, and shows a vessel to be receiving or discharging her powder.

The black flag is a sign of piracy.

The yellow flag shows a vessel to be in quarantine, or is the sign of a contagious disease. A flag at half mast means mourning. Fishing and other vessels return with a flag at half mast to announce the loss or death of some of their crew.

Dipping the flag is lowering it slightly and then hoisting it again, to salute a vessel or fort.

If the president of the United States goes aboard, the American flag is carried in the bow of his barge, or hoisted at the main of the vessel on board of which he is.

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Many thousands of similar letters received. The merits of "5 DROPS" is undisputed with those who have tried it. Large bottles of "5 DROPS" (300 doses), \$1.00; 3 bottles, \$2.50. Agents wanted in new territory. Write us to-day.

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167-169 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

ENORMOUS DEMAND

Thousands of Female Sufferers Asking for the Free Packages Distributed by Mrs. Worley.

Any Woman in the Land Has But to Send Her Name to Freely Obtain This Priceless Boon.

The enormous demand for the Free Packages of the Great Female Discovery made according to the formula originated by Dr. Erastus Baum, of Berlin, is growing daily. The original stock secured by generous Mrs. Worley for Free Distribution has been entirely exhausted, and she has been compelled to supplement it by several additional thousand packages so that all who are suffering can now obtain speedy cure by simply sending name and address to

Mrs. Ellen Worley, Box 666, Springfield, Ohio.

Many physicians whose skill has failed to cure Ovarian Troubles, Leucorrhoea, and Female Weakness of all kinds are now adopting Doctor Baum's system in their daily practice with the most gratifying results, and it is a fact that there has never been a failure to cure except in the rare instances where it was absolutely necessary to resort to surgery.

Those who desire the confidential advice of a woman who has suffered and been cured by this wonderful specific should write to Mrs. Worley at once, and receive the Free Medicine and endorsements of hundreds of the most learned physicians in America and Europe.

TAPE WORMS

"A tape worm eighteen feet long at least came on the scene after my taking two CASCARETS. This I am sure has caused my bad health for the past three years. I am still taking Cascarets, the only cathartic worthy of notice by sensible people."

GEO. W. BOWLES, Baird, Mass.



Pleasant, Palatable, Potent, Taste Good. Do Good, Never Sickens, Weakens or Gripe. 10c, 25c, 50c.

... CURE CONSTIPATION ...
Sterling Remedy Company, Chicago, Montreal, New York. 313

NO-TO-BAC Sold and guaranteed by all druggists to CURE Tobacco Habit.

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By selling Baker's Teas among your neighbors, a total of 100 lbs. for Bicycle; 50 lbs. for Waltham Gold Watch; 25 lbs. for Silver Watch; 10 lbs. for Crescent Camera or Gold Ring. Express prepaid. Write for catalogue, Order Sheet, etc.

W. G. BAKER, Dept. 87 Springfield, Mass.

A new line of Agency Work for either sex, easy and extra profitable; we give special advantages. Send for terms and Free Unit. MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.



FROM A WATER COLOR
BY IRVING R. WILES.

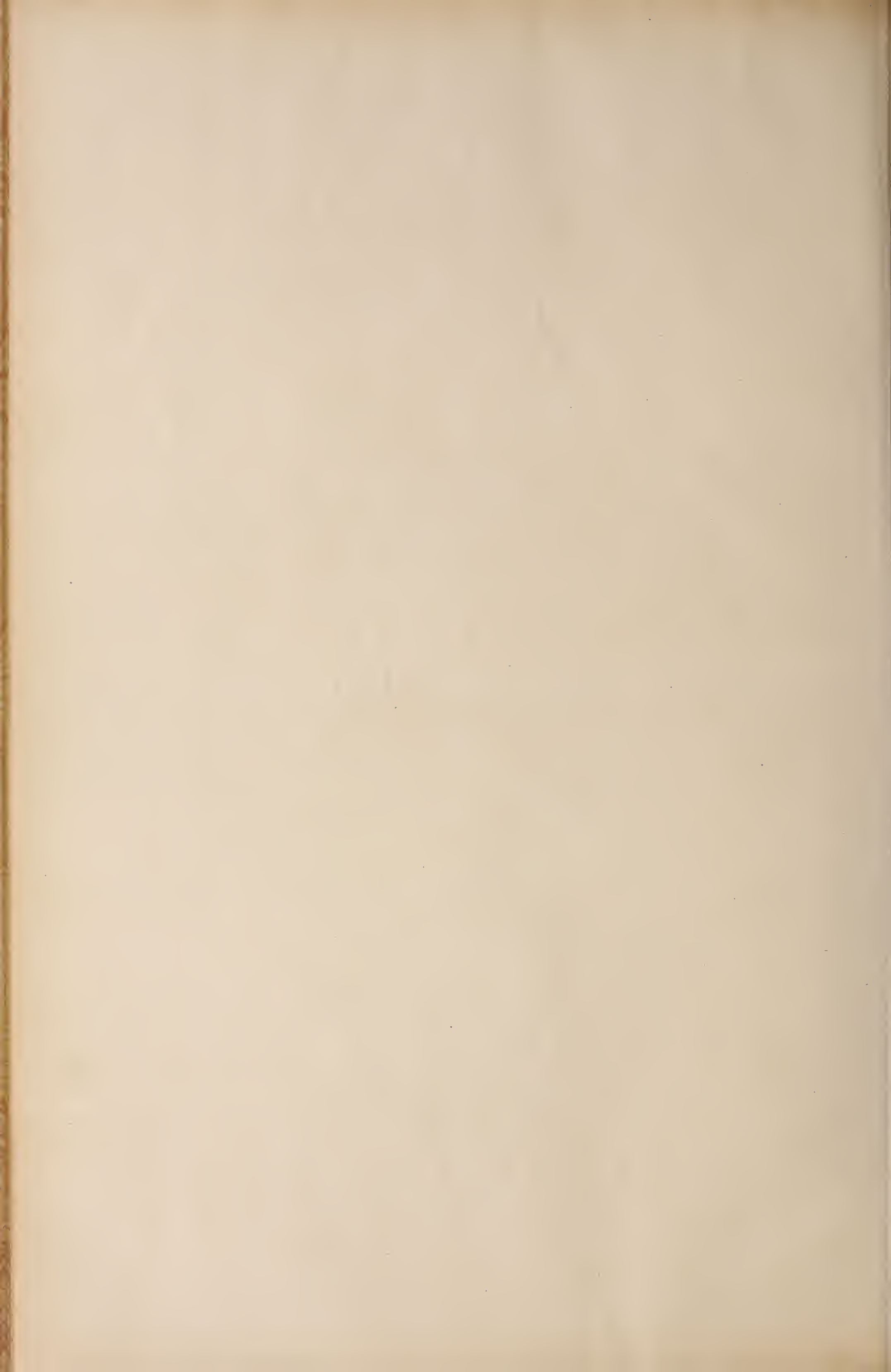
"BABY'S IVORY BATH."

Nothing is more easily affected by irritation than the dainty, delicate skin of a young child. Ivory Soap is healing, cleansing and refreshing. It is wholly free from impurities, and leaves the tenderest skin soothed by its mild, creamy lather.

IT FLOATS.

Person wishing a copy of this picture, may
send to us 10 Ivory Soap Wrappers, on receipt of
which we will send a copy (without printing) on
enamel plate paper, 14 x 17 inches, a suitable size
for framing. THE PROCTER & GAMBLE CO.
CINCINNATI, O.

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UNQUALIFIED.

A young woman who has a position of assistant librarian at one of the largest public libraries in Pennsylvania says that she has a keen sympathy for the ticket-agents at railway stations—a sympathy born of kindred woes.

One day two well-dressed young women approached the desk. One of them took a memorandum from her pocket-book.

"Can you tell me how many yards—oh, that's the wrong list!" she said, hastily bringing forth another slip of paper. "Here it is. Will you please tell me who is Rudyard Kipling's favorite author?"

"I am unable to tell you, never having heard that he had one," I admitted.

"Dear me!" said the young woman, irritably. "It's one of the questions for our next club meeting. Well, which one of Thackeray's books brought him in the largest income?"

"That you can probably find out by consulting a book, the number of which I will give you," I said, turning to one of my reference-drawers as I spoke.

"Oh, I can't stop to look it up," she said, hurriedly. "I thought you could tell me at once. Well, there's one more thing; Bessie Cinnock (my cousin in St. Louis) had a splendid book when I was there last year, for anecdotes of famous people. I can't remember the name of it, or who wrote it, but it was about so big" (illustrating with one finger on the desk), "and it had a dark green cover. Now can you tell me what it is? Some day, when I have time, I'd like to get it out. Of course, you must have it in the library."

For the third time I was obliged to confess my inability to give her direct information. She looked at me with a piercing gaze, and turned away, saying audibly to her companion: "There! That just shows what all this talk about their being examined for positions in public libraries amounts to! Three perfectly simple questions, all on literary subjects, and she couldn't answer one of them!"—Youth's Companion.

SUCCESS OF CURFEW LEGISLATION.

Three hundred towns and cities of the United States, moved by more than three hundred tragedies of juvenile crime, have recently ordained that children shall come home at night at the signal of a so-called curfew-bell, at eight o'clock in winter; at nine in summer. The ancient curfew applied to old and young alike; the modern curfew has only the poetic resemblance of being an even bell. Government is the co-operative act of parents, who act together in cities and villages. Nowhere can curfew be established except at the request of parents expressed in ballots. The law no more interferes with parental rights and personal liberty than laws on compulsory education and child labor. The school and the curfew-bell are equally justified as safeguards of public morals. Laws forbidding the sale of liquors and tobacco and corrupt literature to minors have long since illustrated the duty of the state to immature youth. Gladstone says that it is the purpose of law to make it as hard as possible to do wrong, and as easy as possible to do right. No intelligent view of personal liberty justifies turning infants loose to play with poisons and razors. The most inspiring watchword of reform is, "Give the boys a chance!"

The testimony of cities which have tried the curfew is uniformly favorable. The law has not destroyed civil liberty, nor promoted communism; it has not proved difficult of enforcement, and has been well observed. It has checked hoodlumism. A chief of police who opposed the ordinance at first repented as he heard the steady patter of little feet, homeward bound, passing his office door at each ringing of the bell.—Woman's Journal.

WAR WITH SPAIN.

As war with Spain has broken out the officials seem to think that all that will be needed is warships, torpedo boats and other instruments of destruction. But really what will be needed more than anything else is a good supply of "5 DROPS" (manufactured by the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co., 167 Dearborn street, Chicago, Ill.), to knock out the rheumatism which is sure to grip our soldiers and sailors in the miasmatic climate of Cuba and the surrounding islands, where the war will be waged. The truth is that something to heal and cure is precisely what is needed right now in the desolated "Queen of the Antilles." Those 200,000 reconcentrados reported sick and dying by hundreds need provisions, it is true, but they need good medicines fully as much. If Miss Barton, the good lady who has charge of the Red Cross relief work, was supplied with "5 DROPS" she could, by their agency, save many a sick Cuban. These miraculous "5 DROPS" conquer many of the worst diseases that afflict ailing humanity, such as Rheumatism, Neuralgia, the excruciating Sciatica and the other diseases for which it is recommended. The War Department should see that there is an abundant supply of "5 DROPS" in the medicine chests.

"American Women" is a grand panorama of object-lessons, and will do much good in elevating the American people. I never sold a book into which I could put so much enthusiasm. I love to handle it."—W. A. Moore, Warren, Ind.

EATING BEFORE RETIRING.

There is a happy medium in all things. It is neither wise to eat heartily on retiring to rest, nor to go to bed hungry, but the old tradition, that to eat anything just before retiring for the night was sure to produce indigestion and render sleep impossible, is now quite exploded. As a matter of fact, it is not good to go to bed with the stomach so loaded that the undigested food will render one restless, but something of a light, palatable nature in the stomach is one of the best aids to quietude and rest. The process of digestion goes on in sleep with as much regularity as when one is taking violent exercise to aid it, and so something in the stomach is necessary to insure a good night's rest. It has been stated that a good deal of the prevalent insomnia is the result of an unconscious craving of the stomach for food in persons who have been unduly frightened by the opinion that they must not eat before going to bed, or who have, like many nervous women, been keeping themselves in a state of semi-starvation. Nothing is better on retiring at night than to take a bowl of hot broth; it is an aid to nervous people and induces peaceful slumbers, and this is more particularly the case on cold winter nights.—New York Ledger.

A BLOW TO THE WEDDING GUEST.

The very latest fashion in connection with wedding-cake is not to have it piled up on a table in the hall, with each individual little box tied with white satin ribbon, and the monograms of the bride and groom stamped in gold on the top of it, but to have a very large, ornamental bride-cake on the table where the collation is served. This cake is cut in slices and put into small wedge-shaped boxes, which fit one into another, so that the whole affair, when covered with icing, sugar-decorations and figures, surmounted by perhaps an appropriate emblem for the occasion, looks exactly as if it had not been disturbed at all. When it is time to cut the cake, the bride places the knife into one of the crevices between the tiny boxes and removes one herself. The rest are then handed about among the guests. There is, perhaps, a good reason for this new style of serving the bride-cake. It certainly does away with the possibility of one person carrying home more than one box of wedding-cake to dream on.—Demorest's Family Magazine.

THE PASSING OF FRANCES WILLARD'S GIRLHOOD.

This is my birthday, and the date of my martyrdom. Mother insists that at last I must have my hair "done up woman-fashion." She says she can hardly forgive herself for letting me "run wild" so long. We've had a great time over it all, and here I sit like another Samson sborn of his strength. That figure won't do, though, for the greatest trouble with me is that I never shall be shorn again. My "back" hair is twisted up like a corkscrew; I carry eighteen hairpins; my head aches miserably; my feet are entangled in the skirt of my hateful new gown.

I can never jump over a fence again so long as I live. As for chasing the sheep down in the shady pasture, it is out of the question, and to climb to my eagle-nest seat in the big bur-oak would ruin this new frock beyond repair. Altogether, I recognize the fact that my occupation's gone.

A LITTLE INCIDENT OF THE MARCH ON TAMPA.

A regiment of United States regulars had just landed from the train which had brought them from Chaitanoga. Along the route of march the band started to play "The Star-Spangled Banner," when out of the crowd stepped an old Confederate veteran with a crutch. He hobbled into the ranks of the regulars, got into step, and to the waving of hats of the spectators, marched to the camp-field. He was now more than a Southerner. He was an American, without thought of section or the scars of '63; he felt that he had a flag of his own that was unconquered and unconquerable.—Illustrated American.

SOME CURIOUS RINGS.

Denon, the French savant, wore a ring set with a tooth of Voltaire.

A tooth of Sir Isaac Newton was sold to a nobleman in 1816 for a large sum. He had it placed in a ring and wore it constantly on his finger.

In the collection of Viscount Downe, England, is a ring given to one of his ancestors by Richard Coeur de Lion. It is a silver ring, set with what is supposed to be the palatial tooth of a fish.

An Englishman owns a gold ring set with a miniature painting by Cosway, of the eyes of George, Prince of Wales.

"I received my order of Peerless Atlas and New American Cook Book sooner than I expected," writes Mr. Geo. H. Reynolds, Ridgeway, Col. "Getting books from you is quite different. I find, from the way other firms deal; you send everything, charges prepaid, whereas heretofore I had that expense, and it was a quite heavy one, too. I shall devote all my time to your agencies—they pay the best."

The Power THE GOLD DUST



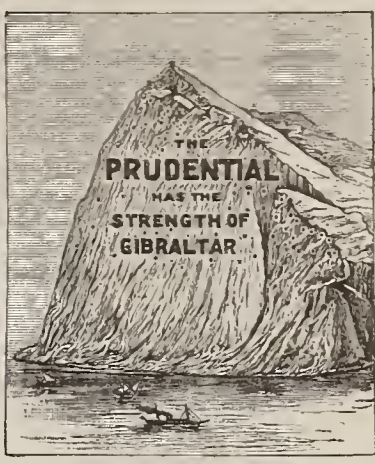
BEHIND BRUSH

What is it—brain or brawn?
Do you clean by main strength or do you use labor savers? Do you use the best labor saver? If you are undecided which is best try

Washing Powder

THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,
Chicago. St. Louis. New York. Boston. Philadelphia.





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LIFE INSURANCE

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Both Sexes. Ages, 1--70. Write for information sent FREE.

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THEY ARE THE STANDARD!

ALWAYS WORTH THE MONEY — GIVE GREATEST SATISFACTION

SPECIAL MANHATTAN BEACH SELECTIONS

From \$15.00 to \$2,500.00.

Send for Catalogue. Liberal Discounts.

Send your order early and get your goods in time for the FOURTH.

To be Proper is to be Correct

THE ONLY WAY TO BE CORRECT WHEN FIREWORKS ARE DISCUSSED, IS TO HAVE

Big Reduction in Prices.

1898 Model High Grade



OAKWOOD High-grade '98 model as per illustration. Flush Joints, 1 1/4 in. Tuling. One-piece Cranks. Large Star Sprockets. Best high-grade Tires. Padded or Hygienic Saddle. None better at any price. Equal to or better than wheels retailed by others at \$75. Our special price \$32.50

ARLINGTON '98 Model. Flush Joints, 1 1/4 in. Tubing. Two-piece cranks. Arch Crown, M. & W. or Arlington Tires. A Good Honest Wheel and Best in the World for the money. Others retail wheels no better for \$60. Our special price \$24.50

Other Wheels at \$13.75, \$15 and \$19.

Juvenile Wheels at \$7. to \$12.50.

We have the largest and most complete line of Bicycles in the U. S. for Men, Women, Girls and Boys.

ALL BRAND NEW MODELS.

Shipped anywhere C. O. D., with privilege to examine. No money in advance. It pays to buy direct from the manufacturers. You save agents and dealers profits which means from \$5 to \$25 on every wheel—worth saving! It not ONE PROFIT, MAKER TO RIDER explains it. Prompt shipments guaranteed. We have the wheels in stock, thousands of them and thousands more being made at the factory. Large Illustrated Catalog Free.

Write today for Special Offer Address plainly,

CASH BUYERS' UNION,
162 W. Van Buren Street, Dept. 7 Chicago, Ills.

FREE SPRING CATALOGUE

PERFECT SYSTEM BEST METHOD

Our latest catalogue of Cut Paper Patterns contains more than 200 styles for Spring. It will be sent free to any one on application. By the use of these patterns any woman can become her own dressmaker and do all the sewing for her family.

ADDRESS
FARM AND FIRESIDE,
SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.



CUT PAPER PATTERNS



\$25 WATCH for \$3.75

That's what you will say when you see this magnificent full engraved hunting case watch, fitted complete with high grade ELGIN Style movement absolutely guaranteed for 5 years.

Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay the express agent our special introductory price \$3.75 and it is yours.


Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want gent's or lady's size and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for sixty days only.

Address
R. E. CHALMERS & CO., 356 Dearborn St., CHICAGO.

WANTED

BY women, each with an infant or young child, situations in the country (general housework, plain cooking, etc.). Small wages expected.

Apply STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION, 105 East Twenty-second Street, New York City.



30 lbs. SUGAR \$1.00

GRANULATED

We sell 30 lbs. best granulated sugar for \$1.00 and all merchandise at lowest wholesale prices. SEND NO MONEY, but enclose 7 two-cent stamps for catalogue quoting 30 lbs. best granulated sugar for \$1.00 and many other bargains.

CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO.
(Salesmen Wanted) Dept. 91 Chicago, Ill.

Mention this paper.

Our Household.

A MOTHER'S ABSENCE.

How dark and drear
Does home appear
Without sweet mother's face;
Though others dear
May strive to cheer
The desolated place!

We long to see
Her form, and be
Clasped in her warm embrace;
To welcome her,
With hearts astir,
Back to her wonted place.

For oh, we miss
Her honied kiss,
Her soft and gentle smile;
Her voice, which is
The sweetest bliss
That can our ears beguile.

Her absence leaves
A void that grieves
The hearts that love her so;
And no one knows
Until she goes
How deep that void may grow.

Then, while she lives,
And solace gives
Within this vale of tears,
May all unite
To make more light
The burden of her years.

And, when at last
Her days are past
For heaven's great white throne,
May angels haste
Her spirits chaste
To bear to God's bright home!

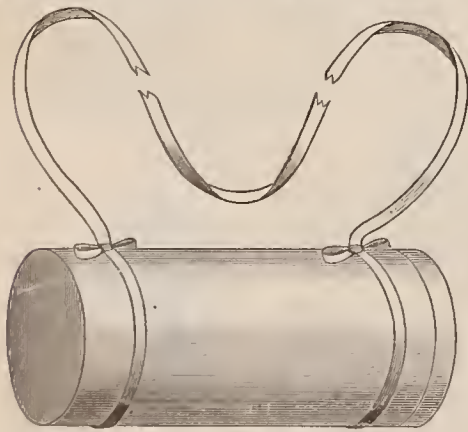
New Orleans, April, 1898. W. W. McWHAN.

HOME TOPICS.

FROGS' LEGS.—A great many people living in the country, near marshes, creeks and ponds where frogs thrive, never think of eating them, and thus neglect the use of an article of food which is considered a great delicacy by those who have tried them. Both bullfrogs and the smaller, green marsh-frogs are edible, but the latter is more delicate and tender.

Only the hind legs of frogs are eaten, and they are at their best from June to October. Cut off the legs, loosen the outer skin and turn it downward and off as you would a glove; then cut off the skin and the toes. When ready to cook frogs' legs scald them in boiling water in which you have put two tablespoonfuls of vinegar or lemon-juice and a teaspoonful of salt. Leave them in the boiling water three minutes, then drain and wipe them dry. If you wish to fry the legs, dip them in fritter-batter or in beaten egg, and fry them brown, as you would chickens. After scalding they may be stewed until tender and served with a cream sauce.

STUDYING PLANTS.—The children will soon be out of school again, and after a



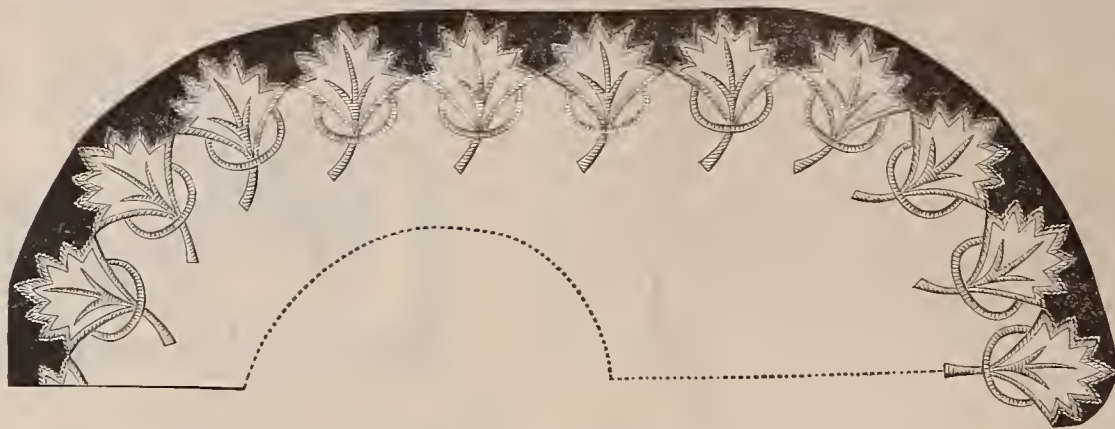
week or two will be wanting something to do. Now is a good time, if it has not already been done, to begin a systematic study of wild plants and flowers. Of course, the early spring flowers are gone, but it is better to begin late than never, and if something is learned and an interest awakened the study will be continued, and another year will find each young collector ready.

Grey's "How Plants Grow" and "How to Know the Wild Flowers," by Mrs. William Star Dana, illustrated, will be valuable aids in identifying the different plants.

Flowers and plants will wither very quickly unless they are put at once into a close, tin box. If you do not wish to go to the expense of purchasing a botanist's collecting-box, you can use a large tin can such as ground coffee comes in. Have the cover fit tightly, tie a string around each end, and have it long enough to go over one shoulder and under the other arm, so as to carry it easily. You will also need a

small pair of pocket-scissors, a pocket-knife and a small trowel if you wish to take up any plants with the roots on. If you decide to make a collection of pressed flowers you will need several sheets of blotting-paper, two smooth boards a little larger than the blotting-paper, and some old newspapers to use as drying-pads.

After you have examined a flower and identified it, lay five or six thicknesses of



newspapers on one of the boards, then a sheet of blotting-paper, on which lay a perfect specimen of the flower with leaves and roots; over this lay another sheet of blotting-paper and another pad of newspapers. Continue in this way until all specimens are in, then put on the other board and a weight. The papers should be changed every day until the specimens are dry to prevent mold.

After the flowers are dry they may be fastened to sheets of heavy paper with little strips of paper and mangle. On each sheet write out your description of the plant, its name, the place where found and date of finding. It is a good plan to take a little note-book when you go out collecting so you can write down any observations about locality, habit of growth, etc., which you might forget.

INFANTS' WARDROBE.—In answer to the inquiry for infants' wardrobe patterns, I have forwarded the amount sent me to Mrs. Atsma, Bayonne, N. J., and no doubt Mrs. McF. has already received the pattern. As I said before, I know nothing personally about these patterns, but as Mrs. Atsma has advertised for several years in the "Woman's Home Companion" I have no doubt they are well worth the price asked for them. When I mentioned these patterns before I inadvertently omitted the address.

MAIDA McL.

HAIRPIN-HOLDER.

This holder is made of fine linen, and is embroidered with violets in their natural shades. The strap above the pockets is intended to hold fancy hairpins or combs. It is made of double linen and left open at the bottom, so that a piece of cardboard can be slipped in and keep the holder in place. A narrow edge of crochet and two crocheted rings finish the edge.

MRS. H. L. MILLER.

DAINTY TOILET-MAT.

ABBREVIATIONS:—Ch, chain; d c, double crochet; s c, single crochet; sl st, slip-stitch; st, stitch.

This mat made of silk, colored thread or even the plain white Glasgo No. 60 makes a very neat toilet accessory; it is also very easily and very quickly made.

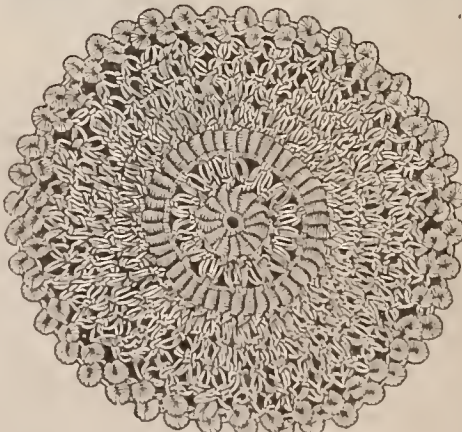
First row—Ch 6, fasten; 15 d c over ring thus made, fasten last to first with sl st.

Second row—Ch 6, 1 d c in first d c; *ch 3, 1 d c in third d c, ch 3, 1 d c in same place; repeat from * all around, fastening last ch 3 in third st of ch 6.

Third row—Ch 3, 3 d c over remainder of ch 6; *ch 5, s c over ch 3, ch 5, 4 d c over ch 3; repeat from *, fastening as before with sl st.

Fourth row—Ch 3, 2 d c in d c, 2 d c in next d c, 1 d c in last; *ch 5, s c over ch 5, ch 5, 1 d c in d c, 2 d c in each of next two d c, 1 d c in last, etc.; fasten.

Fifth row—Ch 3, 2 d c in d c, 1 d c in each of next 2 d c, 2 d c in next d c, 1 d c in last; *ch 5, s c over ch 5, etc., over each ch 5, ch 5, 1 d c in d c, 2 d c in next d c, 1 d c in each



of next 2 d c, 2 d c in next, 1 d c in last, etc.

Continue this widening as in previous rows till you have 10 d c between the widenings in each point, which will be in the ninth row.

Tenth row—3 ch, 1 d c in each d c of previous row; chain of 5 as before.

Eleventh row—Ch 3, skip 1 d c, 1 d c in each of the remaining d c, omitting the last d c; chains of 5 as before.

Twelfth row and the rest until you have only 2 d c at each point but the chains of 5; then ch 3, s c on other side of 2 d c, ch 3, s c in ch 5, etc., all around; then 3 s c over every loop of ch 3 all around; then 3 ch, 1 d c in every s c, putting 3 d c in the middle s c at each point; fasten as usual; 8 d c in the middle d c at point, skip 2 d c, 1 sl st in third d c, 8 d c in third d c, sl st in next third d c, etc.

MAY A. RAYMOND.

CUSHIONS.

If you'll only try to make one of these cushions I know you'll bless my name forever, for they certainly are the loveliest things you ever saw.

First, I want to describe the Roman effects. You know you have Roman waists, Roman ties, Roman sashes, and it stands to reason you must have Roman cushions. You will need a square of plain scrim or Java canvas. Lay this off in regular squares half or three fourths of an inch in size. You do this by drawing threads. You must have a supply of silks of every hue and shade, and you can work from the center or across in stripes, whichever you prefer. Now use your own taste in combining colors. You can mingle them indiscriminately or follow a severe order, which latter effect is more to be admired. Crimson followed by yellow, followed by blue, then gray, then white, then crimson, black, pink, green and brown, until you have crossed once. Do you admire the stripe? Then lay off your cushion in stripes, not in blocks, making some very narrow stripes and others wider, constantly varying in width. In working the blocks you must work toward the center of the block.

Another late fancy is to make cushions of linen, the same color of which your traveling-dress was made last summer. Upon this stamp a bold design—a dragon, a scorpion, a unicorn, a Greek torch, a wreath of laurels, a Roman chariot—and embroider it in dull shades of green or brown. Use the long-and-short-stitch. If you select the unicorn, the scorpion or the dragon use jewels for the eyes, preferably garnets. Finish with a ruffle of linen.

Another handsome and stylish effect is to take gray crash. Sketch on it a face, almost life size. Choose something poetical; for instance, a Moor, an Arab or a Hindu; or if you prefer, select something historical—Montezuma, Caesar, Napoleon or George Washington or Beatrice. In outlining, and that is all you dare to do, be careful that the outline appears a solid cord, a single line. Finish with a cord. One point I forgot to mention, and that is the eyes. Paint them.

One of the prettiest conceits out is the queen of hearts. Sketch the half of a play-

ing-card, heart and all. Paint the eyes, but do the rest in outline. You will be more than pleased with the result. Then there is the omnipresent poster-girl. She may be worked out in gray and white or in colors. For instance, face of gray crash, hair of black canvas, robe of crimson and background of yellow. Outline the applique with brown silk. Sketch her with eyes cast down, and use black silk for eyelashes and eyebrows. The most fastidious cushion fiend will be charmed with the result.

Applique work is being wonderfully revived this year, and after its long retirement into innocuous desuetude is wonderfully fresh and pleasing.

There is the yellow-kid cushion—a veritable happy thought. He's simply overwhelming if handled with care. Use gray crash. Outline the face in black, the eyes and eyelashes in black, and the lips in crimson. Use an applique of any coarse yellow material

for his gown, outlining it and sketching the wrinkles in black silk.

Landscape cushions are very handsome. To illustrate the idea, take the historic harbor of Havana. Any one can sketch that. Make the castle of gray crash, the harbor of blue duck, and the palms of green and brown silk. Put in your shading with brown silk, preferably skein.

And last, but not least, the American-flag cushion. If you can get the flag ribbons use them, with blue ribbon between the back and ruffle, also of blue satin the color of the flag. Or if you wish, make one flag the size you want your cushion, of wool material and linen, the back being left plain.

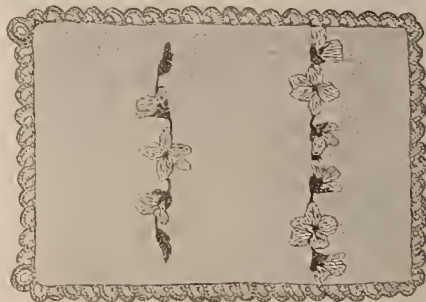


And now you certainly can have cushions.

MARGARET MOORE.

CHILD'S BIB.

Many children are so troubled with drooling that bibs are quite necessary from the time they begin to cut their first teeth. The chest should be protected, as this constant wetting is apt to cause lung trouble. A dress-shield is a good article to cover the dress with, and then over this a bib of white pique neatly embroidered or trimmed with a Battenburg lace border. This bib is



a pretty accessory of dress. The one we illustrate is of white pique embroidered in white nun's-cotton. Pattern of this and two of Battenburg lace will be sent upon receipt of twenty-five cents.

The pattern can easily be transferred to the material. Battenburg lace work is becoming so general that every one likes to do it, as it is not so difficult as embroidery. Also a bib of linen thread edged with a color makes a durable and very pretty bib.

LOUISE L. CHRISTIE.

Dr. D. Jayne's Family Medicines never have been recommended as cure-alls; but Jayne's Expectorant does cure Throat and Lung diseases.

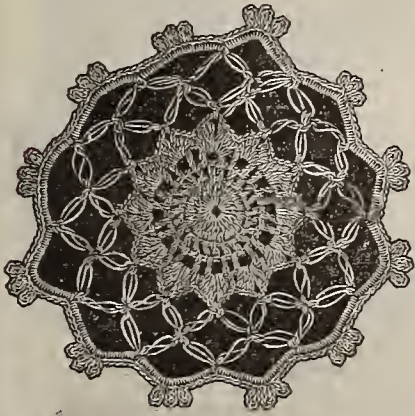
A LESSON IN LACE.

The lesson embraces a lace barb, a lace point, a lace handkerchief and a lace pin-cushion. These are all very pretty when care and good judgment are used in their



making. For them all the pattern must first be drawn upon pink paper-muslin, and the first thing to remember is that good basting is half the work.

The wrong side is always uppermost. When all the basting is done the ends must be rolled and whipped, so as to be secure and neat, and thus joining all the parts together. Then put in all the fancy stitches, and last the beading around the edges and the linen center. Then it is ready to press. Lay a damp cloth over the lace, a dry one over this, on a board, with only a few layers of cloth, no flannel, and press until the lace is dry. Lay aside until you are sure



it is dry, then with a pair of shears clip all the threads from the under side. The material for a handkerchief costs about \$1.25, but when done it may be worth \$20, if it is done neatly. The barb, point and cushion top are all made in the same way, and can be used over colors, making them very pretty indeed.

Lace-making is being revived now as one of the lost arts of our grandmothers, when they were singing softly to themselves:

"By-by, hope rises high,
There's a sweet little cradle hung up in the sky;
A dear little life that is coming to bless,
Two soft chubby hands that will pat and caress;
A pure little soul winding down from above,
A darling to care for, a baby to love."

grew deft in the art of lace-making. Some have many of the articles laid away with the treasures that are only brought out once in awhile—to be looked at—then put back to be handed down to another genera-

tion, who will cherish them because they were—grandma's. BELLE KING.

SPIDER-WEB WHEEL.

ABBREVIATIONS:—Ch, chain; tr, treble; st, stitch; d c, double crochet; sl st, slip-stitch.

Ch 10; join.
First row—Ch 3, 23 tr in ring, join with sl st to top of 3 ch.

Second row—Ch 3, tr in each tr of last round.

Third row—Ch 4, tr between 3 ch and first tr of previous row; *ch 1, tr between next 2 tr, and repeat, making 23 tr with 1 ch between in all; fasten to third st of 4 ch.

Fourth row—3 tr under first 1 ch, ch 2, 3 tr under same ch, 1 single under next 1 ch; repeat, making 12 shells in all.

Fifth row—Work up to center of first shell with sl st; *2 knot-stitches, sl st in center of next shell; repeat from * to *, making 12 points of 2 knot-stitches each.

Sixth row—1 knot-stitch, sl st in knot on top of first point; *2 knot-stitches, sl st in knot on the top the of next point; repeat from * to *, making in all 13 points of 2 knot-stitches each.

Seventh row—1 knot-stitch, sl st in knot on top of first point; *ch 10, sl st in knot on top of next point; repeat from * to * around the wheel.

Eighth row—*6 d c under first 10 ch, ch double in first st of this ch (thus forming a picot), 1 double under same 10 ch, picot, double under same ch, picot, 6 doubles under same ch; repeat from * to * around the wheel.

MARY BURNS.

LUNCHES FOR PICNICS.

The writer has found after a long and varied experience in putting lunches up for picnics that plenty of good substantial food and but few fancy dishes take the best. Everything should be fresh and neatly served

when the time comes for lunch. Nothing is more unsatisfactory than a mussy-looking lot of eatables. A ham that has been

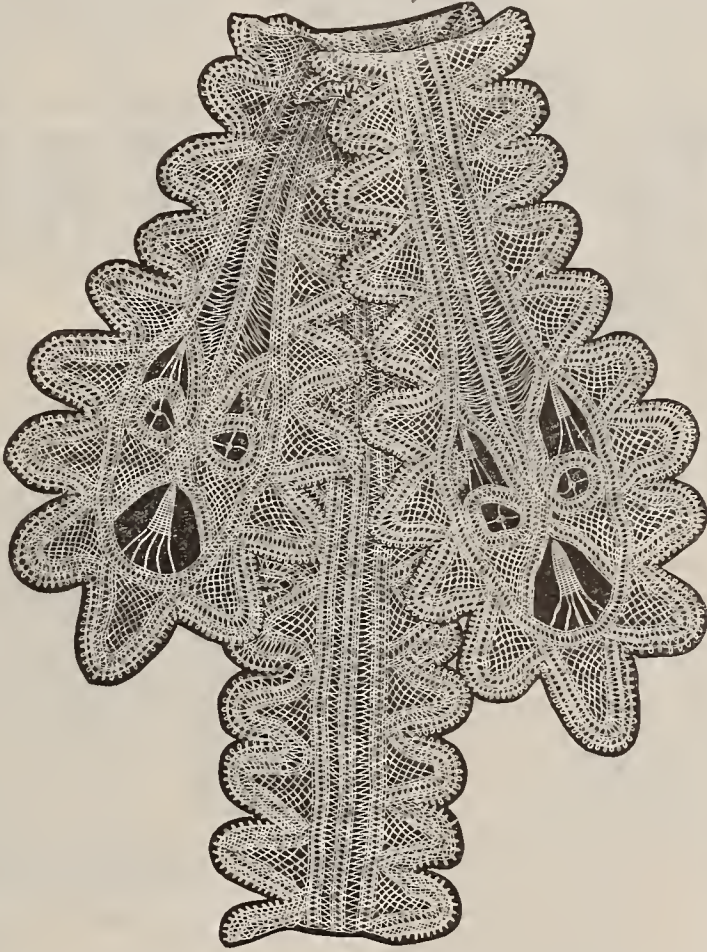
boiled the day before can be put into a stout cloth bag and well tied up. What is not used can be wrapped up and taken home again.

Loaves of bread or rolls are put into paper bags and also tied up. In small jars or covered jelly-glasses put a goodly supply of butter, jelly, prepared mustard and pickles.

Tart-shells can be carried in a can and filled when wanted. Eggs are cooked the day before by putting them in cold water and slowly bringing to the boiling-point, then boiled for half an hour. Place in cold water for a short time. A salt-shaker is filled with a mixture of salt and pepper, and if radishes are taken, a small tin or paper box of salt is taken also.

A bottle of olives sometimes takes the place of the pickles. Cake is cut into slices and put into a covered pail or can. Pies, if made quite dry, can be placed one upon another, with a plate underneath. However, the writer prefers pies made into little turn-overs, as they are less trouble to pack. If lemonade is to be taken, squeeze the lemons, add sugar, and bottle; this is then ready for the water to be added. It is well to take a little extra sugar.

Take a table-cloth, plenty of paper napkins and a towel. Take plenty of common



tumblers, tin spoons, a sharp knife, and if possible, paper or wooden plates. A friend who is much given to picnicing has saved up a set of the inside tin covers to five-pound lard-buckets. A gallon jug of very strong tea, to be diluted as required, is another article that is taken. If any one prefers it hot it can be heated in a tin bucket.

Where there is room, a five-gallon crock filled with ice and wrapped in a blanket is taken. Fresh fruit is always desirable, and with us, when it is in season, a big watermelon reposes in the spring to keep cool.

We make our sandwiches when we spread our lunch, so they are fresh and moist. Sometimes instead of ham we take canned corned beef, deviled ham, sardines, salmon or chipped beef. Before closing, will tell our way of carrying a big watermelon. A shawl-strap is used, and stout twine is tied between the straps to prevent their slipping. Any one who has ever tried to carry one of these unmanageable articles will at once see the usefulness of this device. MAY LEONARD.

A CHANCE TO MAKE MONEY.

In the past week I have made \$125, and attended to my household duties. I think I will do better next week. It seems the more Dish Washers I sell, the more demand I have for them. I think any lady or gentleman, anywhere, can make money in this business. It is something every family wants, and when they can be bought so cheap, they buy them, and the person who has enterprise enough to take an agency is bound to make money. I wish any of your readers that wish to make from \$5 to \$12 a day, would try this business and report their success. Any one can get full particulars by addressing the Iron City Dish Washer Co., E. E. Pittsburg, Pa. Such a chance is rare—at least I have never struck one. MARTHA F. B.

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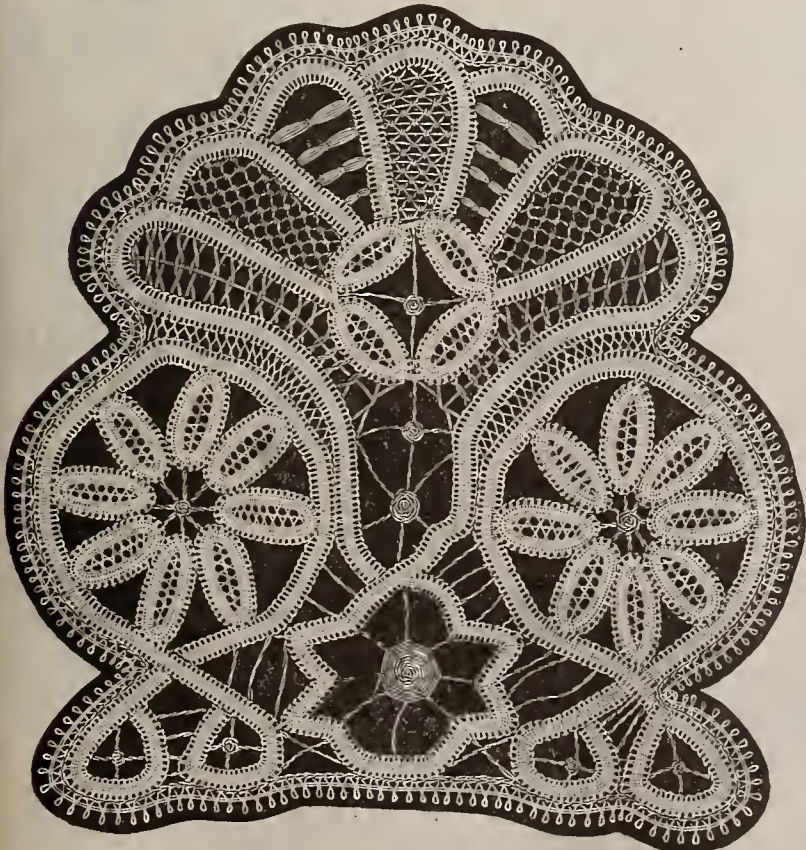
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Their fingers were fashioning dainty little caps of lace, strips of insertion and fronts for tiny gowns, and their fingers

Our Household.

THE "QUO VADIS" CATHEDRAL.

While reading the greatest novel of the year just past, "Quo Vadis," I was forcibly reminded of a delightful drive we took along the Appian way, while we were in Rome.

Not far from the city wall the guide stopped before a cathedral, saying: "You surely want to visit this spot, for it is the place where Christ met Peter as he was fleeing from the persecutions of Nero."

Concealing our ignorance of this wonderful visitation we gladly availed ourselves of the opportunity of viewing another one of the marvelous cathedrals of this city of cities.

After having visited the Church of Santa Maria Rotonda (the Pantheon) built on the ruins of the Temple of Minerva, The Duomo, Santa Maria Del Fiore, Battisterio di San Giovanni, Church of Santa Croce and others, in addition to St. Peter's Cathedral, there was in this church—also sometimes called St. Peter's—nothing of extraordinary interest except—

"Did you see that footprint?" inquired the guide of us.

Casting our eyes upon the floor we saw a piece of marble, upon which the impression of a foot was clearly seen. We, in our ignorance, supposed some aspiring sculptor had carved it there.

"That is the footprint of Christ," said he, in a voice full of awe.

"Indeed!" exclaimed we, stooping down to examine it more closely. (I mentally decided that I would have supposed Christ to have had a more perfect foot than the print indicated; yet said nothing on this wise to the stanch catholic guide.)

Afterward, Dr. Burt told us of the legend.

It seems that Peter's friends had become aware of the fact that Nero was determined to put an end to Peter's life if he did not stop preaching Christ or leave the city. These same friends, knowing how valuable he was to the cause, urged him to flee. He, desiring to please his friends and save his life at the same time, prepared to leave the city secretly. The sun was just appearing over the Alpine hills,

to more definitely mark the spot and preserve the marble. Devout worshippers come here daily to kiss the imprint where Christ once stood.

No wonder that Henryk Sienkiewicz has taken this wonderful spot around which to group the gems of early Roman history.

"Quo Vadis" differs from "Ben Hur" and "The Prince of the House of David" in that the story opens thirty-three years after the crucifixion of Christ.

All the characters in this marvelous production of word-pictures appear intensely real to the reader; but the two characters that stand out the most conspicuous are St. Peter and St. Paul, with whom we have become so familiar in Bible history.

I wish, that every young person who thinks Roman history dull and uninteresting could read this portrayal of the imperial city, and see the vivid picture of that momentous period that he paints for us.

Never again



would he say, "I cannot become interested in Roman history." In fact, he would have a wonderfully correct idea of Italy, especially Rome, as it was at that time. The pomp and magnificence, splendor and glory is well set forth, as is also the poverty and oppression, the arrogance and shame.

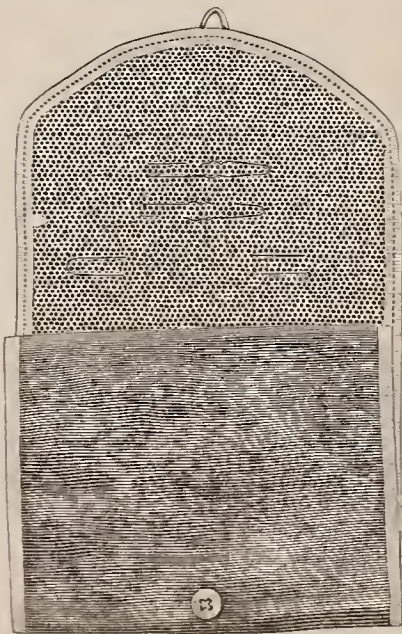
The terrible persecution which the faithful Christians endured is graphically portrayed. But the blood of the martyrs is to water the soil for the precious seeds of righteousness and truth.

The old order of things is beginning to yield to the new. Paganism must soon give place to Christianity.

ELLA BARTLETT SIMMONS.

HAIRPIN-CASE.

This little article will be a useful addition to your traveling-case. A strip of denim and a strip of coarse bobinet lace are placed together and bound with tape.



Round one edge, sew on a button and make a loop to fasten it with when it is folded. Fill with different sizes of hairpins. B.K.

DAINTY SUMMER SUITS FOR SMALL BOYS.

The illustrations herewith show what will be popular in wash suits this season for the small boy. They are all neat, jaunty and boyish, and withal will not be difficult for the home worker to fashion from the heavier colored wash goods, which are better for boys' wear than the light-weight fabrics.

EMMA LOUISE HAUCK ROWE.



tinting them with all the colors of the rainbow, when he reached this spot. But it was not the beauty or brightness of the hills that attracted the apostle's attention, but a figure of exceeding brightness immediately in front of him.

Instantly recognizing the Christ, he held out his hands as if to detain him, saying, as he fell upon his knees: "Quo vadis, Domine?" (Where walkest thou?)

The answer came, in tones of loving sorrow, "Since thou art deserting the flock over which I made thee overseer, I must needs go to Rome and there be crucified a second time."

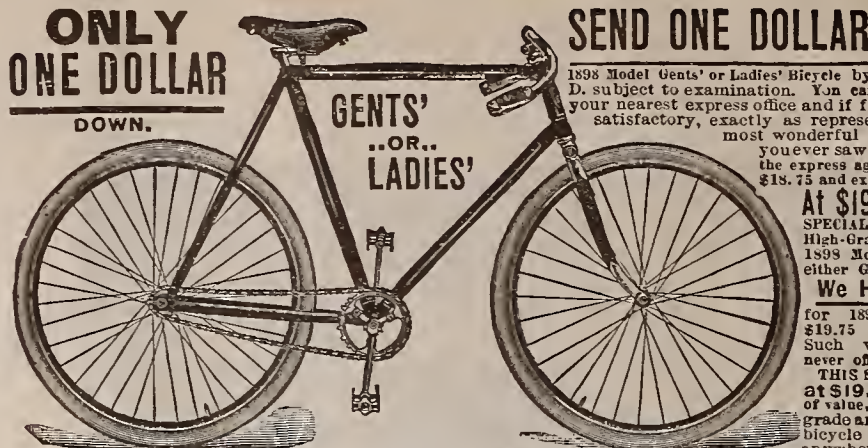
In deep penitence Peter begged Christ's forgiveness, saying that he "wist not what he was doing," but that he would return and labor or die for his master, as the case might be.

He labored valiantly to the end, which was not long in coming; then he begged to be crucified with head downward, saying he was not worthy to die as Christ had done.

It is said that as the Savior talked with Peter one foot rested upon this piece of marble, and that when he disappeared the impression of the foot remained on the stone, thus enabling Peter to prove conclusively that he had met Jesus and talked with him.

Some time after this cathedral was built

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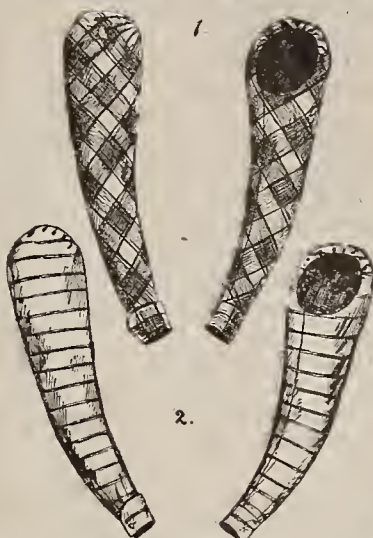
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Our Sunday Afternoon.

"JESUS DOETH ALL THINGS WELL."
BY E. W. H.

We have many things to grieve us,
Many sorrows could we tell;
But we know whatever cometh,
"Jesus doeth all things well."

We have often met temptation,
Many times we nearly fell;
But Christ upheld and kept us,
For "be doeth all things well."

And we would not shrink nor falter,
Nor would we our birthright sell;
For whatever trials greet us,
"Jesus doeth all things well."

FOR SUNDAY CONTEMPLATION.

RELIGIOUS bigotry is as blind as a mole and twice as deaf.

Life means learning to abhor the false and love the true.

The bellows of meditation will quicken the flame of devotion.

If you want immortality, make it. If you want your soul saved, make it worth saving.—Joaquin Miller.

The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith, and the beginning of true faith is the end of anxiety.—George Muller.

One reason why some people read the Bible so little is because it tells them so many unpleasant things about themselves.

When the heart has found its true gravitation it leaves that rest slowly and returns to it quickly.—Dora Greenwell.

You must desire first to become good. That is the first and great end of life. That is what God sent you into the world for.—Charles Kingsley.

No matter how humble the abode; if it be sweetened with kindness and smiles the heart will turn longingly toward it from all the tumult of the world.

How sure one grows of the power of spirit over mind and matter. Matter has its laws, but the laws of mind are stronger, can overcome those of matter, but over all is spirit with its laws, breathing through mind and matter, and molding them in its likeness.

Eternity, which cannot be far off, is my one strong city. I look into it fixedly now and then. All terrors about it seem to me superfluous. The universe is full of love and of inexorable sternness and veracity, and it remains forever true that God reigns. Patience, silence, hope.—Carlyle.

O God, who makest cheerfulness the companion of strength, but apt to leave us in time of weakness, we humbly beseech thee that if, for our unworthiness or in thy sovereign wisdom, thou sendest tribulation, yet, for thy mercy's sake, deny us not the comfort of patience. Thou wilt not lay more upon us than thou wilt enable us to bear; but since the fretfulness of our spirits is more hurtful than the heaviness of our burden, grant us that inner calmness which comes when we feel thee with us, and give us grace to own that thou doest all things well. Amen.—R. Crompton Jones, in Hartford (Conn.) Globe.

MAINTAIN YOUR POSITION.

Christian reader, when you take a position on any question of right or duty or privilege, and you have the deeply wrought assurance that you are approved of God in that position, maintain it at all hazards!

There are far too many Christians who wish to consult others before taking a stand on any question; and if, after all, at last they do take a stand, they find that their position is not so easy or popular or profitable as they at first thought it would be, they will hastily abandon it. Such ones are never in the possessive case a great while at a time. They are an irregular transitive verb, and belong to the neuter gender. Now observe that the more essential it is for one to steadfastly maintain his position in respect to the truth of God, or in regard to a moral principle, or in reference to an item of church order and practice, the more likely is he to be very strongly tempted to abandon that position. And the temptation to do so is very apt to come through the solicitations of Christian brethren and friends who differ from that person in regard to the peculiar position which he holds. It is a mistake to suppose that all temptations to abandon one's position of duty come directly from the devil, or even through unconverted people; for some of the most plausible and dangerous temptations to

which a Christian is subject come through other Christians. But through whatever channel the temptation to desert your position may come—provided that you are soundly convinced that your position is approved of God—resist it with determined firmness.

Maintain your convictions of right and duty in the face of friend and foe. Such an attitude does much to cultivate and build up Christian stamina. It toughens one's spiritual fiber; it feeds moral manhood; it brings to one the increased respect of those whose respect amounts to something.—Pentecostal Herald.

LIFE'S DRUDGERIES.

An "honor man" at Harvard a year or two ago summed up his college life as "a study of the rudiments of a dozen kinds of knowledge. When I began to form these alphabets into sentences college life was over."

Men and women who have won reputation by good work in the world have given much the same summary of their lives. "Any man," says Boudinot, "may be glad, if out of all his work a half dozen brief sentences last for a generation or two. The rest of his time in the world went to fit him to speak those sentences."

George Eliot, in a letter to a friend, stated that the five books by which she is known bore no proportion to the enormous amount of anonymous writings by which she simply earned her livelihood.

An eminent American surgeon in an address to a medical school said, "Very few successful men can expect to perform more than one or two great operations in the course of a long practice. The bulk of work ought to be a training for these operations."

Honest, intelligent lads often set out in life with the resolve to add something to the happiness or wisdom of the world. Old age comes and they are forced to feel that they have done no work that is recognized, or, so far as they can see, that has been of large benefit to their generation. Their labor has been given to support life.—Youth's Companion.

COST OF SPAIN'S SUNDAY AMUSEMENTS.

That the Spanish people are in a national and moral decline cannot be wondered at when we learn what it costs Spain to educate its people by Sunday bull-fights. The following statistics have been compiled from Spanish sources:

"Guerrita is the king of the toreadores. He earned \$61,200 during the season of 1897, from April 5th to October 30th. Next after him came Reverte, with \$28,700; Mazzantini, with \$26,000; Bombita, with \$25,800; Algabeno, with \$23,000; Fuentes, with \$19,500; Minuto, with \$15,000, and Villita, with \$10,000. Premier Canovas' salary was \$5,400 a year. There were during the season 438 performances, in which 1,218 bulls, worth \$300,000, were killed. Over 6,000 horses perished in the fights. These figures include only high-class bull-fighting at the most important cities. In each of the smaller towns they have, every year, one or two fights in which the number of persons killed or crippled always exceeds that of the bulls fought."

BE CHEERFUL.

How different it is when one is habitually cheerful! Wherever such a person goes he carries gladness. He makes it easier for others to live. He puts encouragement into the heart of every one he meets. When you ask after his health he answers you in a happy, cheerful way that quickens your own pulses. He does not burden you with a list of complaints. He does not consider it necessary to tell you at breakfast how poorly he rested, how many times he heard the clock strike during the night, or any of the details of his miserable condition this morning. He prefers only to speak of cheerful things, not staining the brightness of the morning for you with the recital of any of his own discomforts.—J. R. Miller.

"I find," says ex-editor W. A. Greene, of Onawa, Iowa, "that everybody admires the usefulness and cheapness of the premium books supplied with FARM AND FIRESIDE and WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION. I do not like the agency business very well, but when I have a thing that all say is good and cheap, which is the case with Peerless Atlas, I can work it with satisfaction. I hand you another order and wish you would explain to me your plan of shipping 20 to 100 Atlases in advance, and collecting through the bank; would like to take advantage of this plan."



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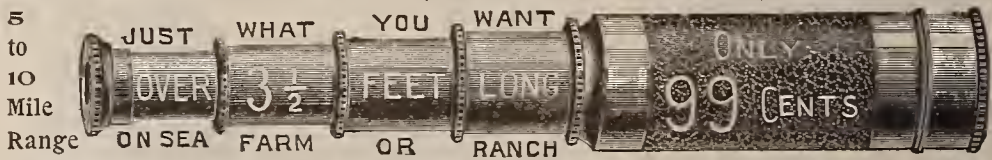
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Smiles.

He played a Spanish serenade,
That singer—where is he?
Ask of the audience who made
Him very hard to see!
—Town Topics.

BUDDING ROMANCE CRUSHED.

MISS INKWELL!"
"Yes, sir."
The blooming young typewriter
girl came forward as she answered
the call, and there was a bright light
in her eyes and a rosy flush on her rounded
cheek as she sat down at her machine to await
the dictation of Mr. Hieronymus Hapgood,
junior member of the firm of Spotsch & Co.

Whereupon he began:
"At the office, April second."
Plick, plick, plick, plick, plick-a-plack,
plick-a-plack, plick, plick.
"My Dear Miss Corkins!"
The rosy flush faded from the cheek of the
typewriter girl.

Plick, plick, plick, plick, plick-a-plack,
plick, plick, plick-a-plack.

"You will pardon me, I am sure, for sending
you a typewritten communication—"

Plick, plick, plick, plick, plick, plick, plick,
plick-a-plack, plick, plick, plick, plick.

"—but the fact is that I accidentally cut my
finger yesterday morning—"

Plick, plick, plick, plick, plick, plick, plick,
plick, plick, plick, plick-a-plack, plick-a-
plack, plick, plick.

"—and cannot use a pen."
Plick, plick, plick, plick, plick-a-plack,
plick-a-plack, plick, plick.

"I have things to say to you, however—"

Plick, plick, plick-a-plack, plick, plick,
plick-a-plack, plick, plick.

"—which cannot be deferred."

Plick, plick, plick, plick, plick-a-plack,
plick, plick, plick.

"My dearest girl—"

The bright light in the eyes of the type-
writer girl went out.

Plick—plick—plick—plick—plick—plick—
plick—plick—plick.

"Got that down, Miss Inkwell?"

"Yes, sir," replied the girl, in a steely voice,
as she swallowed something that rose in her
throat. "I've got it down! Go on, please."
Chicago Tribune.

HIGH LIGHTS.

If conduct is three fourths of life the other
fourth must be good clothes.

It is a wise man who never lets his wife
know that he can put up shelves as well as a
carpenter.

A man who can dig garden has a hard lot in
life; his wife is always lending him to the
neighbors.

This would be a pleasanter world if parents
considered obedience as indispensable as
dancing-lessons.

Next to knowing another woman's age
woman always want to know whether her
side-combs are real tortoise-shell.

Among queer kinds of women is the woman
who always wants to talk about what she was
doing this time last year.

A man can never please his neighbors; they
always think either that he stays at home too
much or doesn't stay at home enough.

A married man hates the word "honey-
moon" because his wife is always throwing
up to him his sentimental remarks during
that period.

FRIGHTFUL PRECOCITY.

"Oh, John," exclaimed the fair young
mother, "I'm glad your home. I have been so
worried."

"Why, dear," he asked, "what's the matter?"

"It's about the baby. I tremble to think of
it. You know they say children that are too
smart never grow up."

"Yes, yes," he cried, "go on! What is it?
Where is our darling? What has happened?
Go on!"

"John," she said, putting her arms around
his neck and sobbing upon his breast, "he
said 'da da' to-day, and he is only nine months
old!"—Chicago News.

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

No woman knows man till she gets married,
and no woman knows men afterward.

No man has any idea how much he strokes
his beard till he has it shaved off.

Some old bachelors are dead, but some other
married men don't know they're living.

The worst thing about love in a man is the
fear that some time he may wake up and not
find it there.

If you look at a butterfly's wing through a
microscope you will find the patterns are
caused by its having rows of warts on it.—
New York Press.

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DON'T MONKEY WITH SAMPSON.

"Them Spanishes know better dan to
monkey wid Sampson," said the old darkey
on Ivy street. "Dey kin sorty bluff the Kuby
folks, but dey hain't so fur forgot der raisin'
az to cum foolin' roun' Sampson. I spect dey
is dun heerd all about dat gang ov Fillystines
whut undertack to run de hog over Sampson
wanst, an' he didn't do a thing but frail de
thunder outen de hail push wid jest a soup-
bone. No, dey hain't goin' to pester roun'
Sampson."—Atlanta Journal.

DIPLOMACY IN THE HOME CIRCLE.

"Papa," said the young mother, "I've
decided on a name for baby. We will call her
Imogene." Papa was lost in thought a few
minutes; he did not like the name, but if he
opposed it his wife would have her own way.

"That's nice," said he, presently. "My first
sweetheart was named Imogene, and she will
take it as a compliment."

"We will call her Mary, after my mother,"
was the stern reply.

NOT DISINTERESTED.

He was trying to magnify the danger of a
bombardment of our summer resorts by the
Spanish.

"You never did care very much about
going," said his wife.

"But it's going to be worse this summer than
ever before," he said, solemnly. "Formerly
they merely stood a man up and demanded
his money. Now it's going to be a case of
'your money or your life.'"—Detroit Free
Press.

RURAL TREPIDATION.

"Does Aunt Rebecca take any interest in
the war?"

"Yes; she says she hopes the guns won't be
near enough to disturb her sitting hens."—
Chicago News.

MISCONCEPTION OF TERMS.

Mrs. Callahan—"I want to get a pair of
shoes for the little boy."

Shopman—"French kid, ma'am?"

Mrs. Callahan (indignantly)—"Indade not;
he's me own son, born and bred in Ameriky."

A SHAME.

Housekeeper (to book-agent who brings the
tenth instalment of a novel)—"I can't take
the book; Mr. Meier is dead."

Book-agent—"Oh, what a shame! It's right
in the most exciting part of the story!"—
Fliegende Blaetter.

THE CURE.

"The tocsin of war," remarked the observer
of men and things, "is doubtless the only
effectual anti-toxin for the war fever."

LITTLE BITS.

"I just hate this war talk," said Mrs. Stubbs.
"It takes up so much room in the paper that
there isn't any space left to tell what women
are going to wear this spring."—Harper's Bazar.

Tramp—"Please, mum, can't you help a poor
man wid a large family, mum. Me wife and
children are starvin', mum."

Benevolent lady—"Good gracious! I'll go
to them at once."

Tramp—"If you please, give me 10 cents,
mum, I'd—"

Benevolent lady—"Take me to them,
quickly. There's no time to lose. My! Where
are they?"

Tramp—"Please, mum, it's too far to walk.
They're in the old country."—New York
Weekly.

The newly elected justice of the peace faced
the happy pair. In all his legal experience he
had never tackled so abstruse a problem.
Nevertheless he determined to proceed with
the ceremony to the best of his somewhat
rattled ability. He went on with the affair by
jerky and occasionally inaudible degrees.
Presently he looked vacuously around him
and hoarsely inquired:

"Does any man present know of any imped-
iment to this union?"

He saw that nobody understood him. He
tried again.

"Does any man know of any bar—"

He was interrupted by the bridegroom.

"That's a bar next door," said the happy
man, "but, bet yer boots, thar won't be a drop
o' lickerin' till you say hitched!"

And the ceremony proceeded.—Seattle News.

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already taken 56 orders, which is not so
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think that one dollar for it and the magazine
one year is a wonderful bargain, and I know
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only what any pushing young man can do
who really tries.

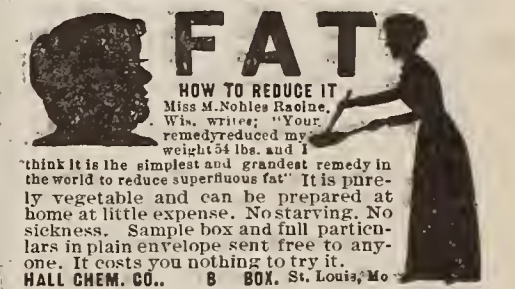
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Our Miscellany.

GADZOOKS—"They say that Spain has no disappearing guns."

Zounds—"No, but she has a disappearing fleet, all right."

ETERNITY, which cannot be far off, is my one strong city. I look into it fixedly now and then. All terrors about it seem to me superfluous. The universe is full of love and of inexorable sternness and veracity, and it remains forever true that God reigns. Patience, silence, hope.—Carlyle.

What a Missouri agent says respecting "American Women," so well expresses the general opinion of the ladies who are selling that work for us, that we quote it verbatim: "I am so pleased with the second volume; some of my subscribers think it superior to even the first. I am delighted with my work, and see there is a greater success than ever within reach." This lady has sent us four nice orders already for "American Women."

THE "Christian Register" is authority for the following story: "When a certain bishop was about to make a visitation of his diocese, his wife said to him: 'Now, bishop, remember you mustn't eat any mince pie, for you know it never agrees with you.'

"No, I won't," said the bishop, and for awhile he withstood the temptation in various quarters. But at last he succumbed to an especially choice piece, and it was so good that he ate another. That night he was taken violently ill, and the physician who was summoned was greatly surprised to find how extremely nervous his patient was over his condition.

"Why, bishop, surely you are not afraid to die?"

"Oh, no," said the bishop, "I am not afraid to die, but I am very much ashamed to."

TATTOOING AN ANCIENT PRACTICE.

Professor Paul Haupt, editor of the Polychrome Bible and professor of Semitic languages in Johns Hopkins University, delivered an interesting talk on "Tattooing Among the Semites" before the Baltimore Folk Lore Society, recently. He said:

"Tattooing was practised among the very earliest nations, and ancient literature is filled with references to the custom. Xenophon tells us the story of a tribe who dwelt near the Black sea, who fattened their children like pigs at an early age, tattooing their backs in solid colors and covering the fronts of their small, plump bodies with elaborate tattooed marks in all manner of queer patterns and designs. Herodotus states that tattooing was considered a mark of distinction among the Thracians, and the more designs a man could get on his body the better he was thought of. A similar idea prevails among certain classes of German students. Most of the students will not dream of allowing a wound to heal upon the first intention, but keep the injury open and sore, so as to make a good and lasting scar. This is their idea of distinction.

"There are many references to the practice of tattooing in the Bible, both in Galatians and Revelations, Chapters vii, xiii and xiv. In Leviticus tattooing is forbidden as a heathenish practice, the authorized version giving this passage: 'Ye shall not print any marks upon you,' while the Polychrome Bible says: 'Ye shall not tattoo any marks upon you.' The earliest possible reference to tattooing, and undoubtedly the origin of the custom, is found in the patriarchal story of Cain. The mark that the Lord appointed to Cain seems to have been a tattooed tribal one. The story throws some light upon the origin of the institution of vendetta or blood-feud. Without any such tribal mark the wanderer in the desert may be killed by any one who runs across him, while the tattooed marks affords protection.

"In modern Egypt, Syria, Japan, China and throughout the East tattooing is still practised to an astonishing degree. The art of puncturing the skin with a fine needle and inserting the pigment requires great skill and patience. In Syria the Christians living there tattoo themselves, so as to be exempt from military service in the wars of the Mahometans. These regard it as a sacred symbol. In Isalah you will find these words: 'God himself has engraved the walls of Jerusalem upon the palms of his hands; as a pledge that he will restore them.' The idea of tattooing slaves was that they were branded with the name of their master, with soldiers the name of their general, and with idolaters the mark of their deity."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

GOOD FISHING AT CELINA RESERVOIR.

On and after May 15th, until September 30th, 1898, agents of the C. H. & D. Ry. will sell tickets to Celina at one and one third fare round trip, good to return fifteen days from date of sale.

"I inclose order and money for 300 Peerless Atlas, each with a year's subscription for WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION. I expect to get many more orders here. Have just enlisted two young men as helpers, and believe we can do wonderful work here in northern Ohio."—C. A. Maymaker, Elyria, Ohio.

RANK IN THE NAVY.

Prior to the civil war there was no rank in the United States navy higher than that of commodore, which was in fact a mere title of courtesy given to the senior captain in command of a squadron. It carried neither increase in pay nor power. But when it became necessary to blockade the Southern ports, and the navy was correspondingly increased, Congress passed a law in 1862 establishing the grade of commodore, making the rank equivalent to that of brigadier-general in the army.

As the war progressed it became apparent that the naval heroes should be rewarded with rank as well as with thanks, and after Farragut had run the batteries and brought about the capture of New Orleans, the rank of rear-admiral was created and conferred upon him. Then came the battle of Mobile bay, and Congress established the rank of vice-admiral, which was intended for and given to the same great sea-warrior.

In 1866, after the war was over, but before the splendid gallantry of the navy was forgotten, Congress passed a law creating the rank of admiral, and Andrew Johnson, then president, appointed Farragut to the position, while David D. Porter was made vice-admiral.

These positions were established solely for the benefit of these great naval commanders. After Farragut's death Porter became admiral, but when he died the rank died with him. Since his death the grades of admiral and vice-admiral no longer exist, and the number of rear-admirals is limited to six.

It is a curious fact that all of the six rear-admirals now in command at various stations will be retired for age during the present year, thus leaving plenty of sea-room for the heroes of the present war. It therefore seems unnecessary to create a seventh rear-admiralship for Dewey when there will be plenty of vacancies presently.

It is probably because of these facts that Senator Hale, chairman of the naval committee in the Senate, moved recently for a reconsideration of the bill passed by both houses in hot haste creating this additional position.—Chicago Times-Herald.

THE ENERGY OF CANNON-BALLS.

An interesting comparison was made by "The American Machinist" last week for the purpose of giving its readers an accurate idea of the tremendous force developed by big cannon nowadays. The largest guns used on naval vessels to-day have a 13-inch bore. The projectile for a gun like this weighs 1,100 pounds, and a charge of powder amounting to 500 pounds is ignited behind it. The shot acquires a muzzle velocity of about 2,000 feet per second. Few people have any notion of the energy that is here represented.

Our contemporary asks its readers to think of a locomotive engine weighing 100,000 pounds. This is fifty tons. Now if the locomotive were moving at the rate of forty miles an hour its energy would be scarcely more than one thirteenth that of the cannon-ball. In other words, if thirteen locomotives were to smash up against a stone wall all at once, the blow which they would deliver would be no more severe than that of one shot from the 13-inch gun, assuming that the muzzle of the latter was placed only a few inches from the same wall. Inasmuch as the projectile would be small it would concentrate its action on one spot, and do more harm, apparently, than the thirteen engines. But the amount of energy would be the same.

In one case there would be a small mass and a high velocity, and in the other a large mass and a comparatively low velocity. Forty miles an hour is a pretty good speed for a locomotive, but not for a cannon-ball. The momentum of a moving object is computed by multiplying the weight by the velocity, and this was done in the very suggestive and surprising calculation here quoted.

It has been estimated by ordnance experts that if a shot from a 13-inch gun should strike an armor plate only a few inches from the muzzle of the gun, it would pierce twenty-six inches of Harveyized nickel steel.—New York Tribune.

MR. RATLINES OF THE NAVAL RESERVES.

"Why, Julia, how the waist of your frock smells of tar?"

"Yes, mamma; poor Mr. Ratlines of the Naval Reserves has been bidding me good-bye again."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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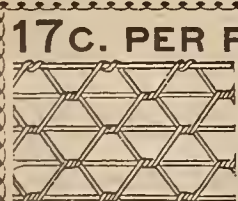
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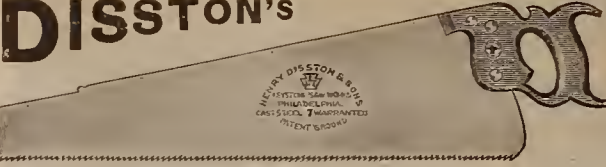
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The thinking farmer will not permit
himself to be lured from the methods and
crops which have in the past brought him
good returns by the high price of wheat,
the apparent profits in sugar-beet growing,
the rise of the sheep industry or the several
other things which of late have promised
good returns. It will be well, of course,
to investigate the various things which
promise to make our lots brighter, and if
the conditions, markets, soil, climate and
our knowledge of the industry warrant, to
make the test on our own grounds in a
moderate way and thus be reasonably sure
of the course to take.
Because wheat brings in the neighbor-
hood of a dollar a bushel do not devote the
bulk of your tillable area to wheat because
others in your neighborhood propose to do
so. On the other hand, it would be better
policy to investigate the crops your neigh-
bors propose to abandon, and if you can,
or do, grow these crops on your own
grounds, increase the area devoted to them
the coming season, for it does not follow
that because wheat is a dollar a bushel it
will remain at that figure, neither is it fair
to presume that your markets will con-
sume a less quantity of strawberries or
vegetables the coming summer than be-
fore.
The essence of good farming is to first
grow what is required by the family and
the live-stock with a proper regard to keep-
ing up the fertility of the soil, and to look
for cash to the crops which experience has
taught you do well on your soil, which
you understand how to grow and which
bring a fair price year after year in the
markets to which you cater. Any plan
which means the paying out of a dollar
for food for your family or stock which
might be grown on the farm is a weak
spot in the foundation of your farming,
which must be made firm if you would
be successful. **GEO. R. KNAPP.**

POTATOES IN A DRY CLIMATE.
A great many failures are made in farm-
ing from not understanding how to meet
the peculiar conditions existing. We have
here in Oklahoma the richest soil that I
have ever been acquainted with, and a
favoring climate, except in the one particu-
lar of lack of rainfall at some season of
the year.
Many fail in raising a full supply of
potatoes, or if they raise a good supply,
then in keeping them during the long
warm autumn until they can go into win-
ter storage.
This section has been settled six years,
and though formerly accustomed to a wet
Northern climate, I have raised five fair
crops of potatoes out of the six planted, and
have not lost any more by rotting than in
former locations. In four out of the six
years mulching was better than cultiva-
tion, and in the other two equally as good.
Last year I had them grown under four
methods. The best and earliest were from
volunteer stock coming up from those left
in the soil at digging-time. They had been
grown under mulch, and the mulch pro-
tected them from freezing during the win-
ter, and as the ground was not plowed at
digging-time all that was done to them for
the next crop was to apply more mulching
just as the young shoots were coming
through the ground. But I would not re-
commend the continuance of this practice,
as plowing is certainly needed, especially
where perennial weeds infest the ground.
As I understand it now I would recom-
mend very early and deep planting, say
any time during February, and at least
eight inches deep, of such varieties as Early
Ohio and Bliss' or Red Triumph, which
have proved to be well adapted to a dry
climate, and then mulch just as they are
coming through the ground. No cultiva-
tion is given, and except that it should be a
wet autumn, to start second growth they
should be allowed to remain in the ground
and used as needed. Ours were not all dug
until February and they were in fine con-
dition for eating. **J. M. RICE.**


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The money-making farmer of to-day wants
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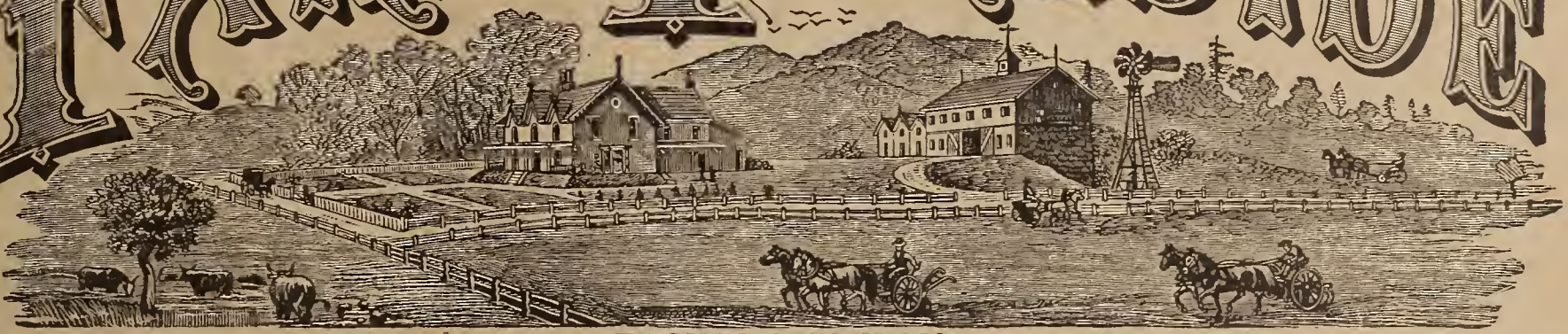
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high now, whereas in the days before the factory came they were very low. The quality of other crops with which they alternate their beets is much improved, and the quantity is greater.' An air of thrift pervaded the entire community. New homes were being built and public improvements made, and Lehi, Utah, stands to-day as a living illustration of the results of a good market for a rich farm product to first hands, with no middleman between."

THE purposes of the war change with the progress of the war. Unforeseen events broaden the plans and create problems of government that statesmanship of the highest order only can solve. The current of events is bearing the United States onward to its destiny. Not until the war is ended can come the full development of the nation's policy in regard to the control or disposal of new possessions.

Mr. Henry Norman, editor of the "London Daily Chronicle," now in Washington, writes:

"The neutrality of England forced Admiral Dewey's squadron to sea. To smash the Spanish Asiatic squadron and seize Manila was his only course. This accomplished, it became instantly imperative to send him reinforcements, and these had to be strong enough to defeat twenty Spanish regiments and occupy the principal islands.

"The same is true of the Atlantic. When war was declared it was believed that the insurgents were capable of taking the field against the Spanish if supplied with arms, ammunition and food. It is now known that they are wholly incapable of this, and the military authorities have become deeply averse to any co-operation with the insurgents, holding the view that the American army should act with complete independence, so as to be free to face whatever situation may arise after the Spanish are expelled.

"To President McKinley alone is due the escape of this country from the fatal blunder of recognizing the insurgents as belligerents, and for this every thinking American to-day is profoundly grateful. . . . Nobody could have foreseen the extraordinary change of public opinion after Admiral Dewey's victory. Between April 30th and May 1st a revolution took place. On one day the idea of keeping the Philippines had not occurred to anybody; on the next, few people thought of giving them up. Now, also, it is appreciated that it is impossible to dispose of them to any other power without the gravest complications, while public sentiment is intolerant of the idea of restoring them to Spanish misrule.

"Thus in every direction events have moved and the administration has followed. In Ambassador Hay's words, it has been a case of the imposition of invisible hands. The moving finger has written, and it cannot be lured back to 'cancel half a line.'

"The question is, will the United States, when peace is signed, withdraw within its old limits, abide by its old traditions, and resist the temptation of empire; or will it accept boldly what the fortunes of war have brought, and turn its face toward a new destiny? The struggle will be long and bitter.

"The opponents of annexation urge that the constitution permits no territory to be incorporated in the Union which cannot become a state. It is replied that America must no longer let George Washington do its thinking for it. It is declared that the country possesses no class of men capable of administering Eastern countries, and that these will merely become the prey of professional politicians. The retort is that the necessity of finding such men will compel at last a complete reform of the diplomatic and consular services, and thus deprive the politicians of their old spoils.

"Why," ask the ones, 'should we needlessly entangle ourselves with the European powers, and enter the far Eastern perilous arena?'

"We are already entangled," reply the others; 'our interests are equal to those of England in keeping open the vast markets of China, and England will be overborne and China seized piecemeal unless we range ourselves alongside her.'

"It will take a great army and navy," say the objectors.

"It is perfectly certain," reply the annexationists, 'that the country has already determined to have a strong navy, and an army such that never again shall we be caught in this disgraceful state of unpreparedness. Having these, therefore, why should we not use them to advance our material interests and the general civilization?'

"Besides," add the annexationists, in conclusion, 'we are called upon to take a place in the world commensurate with our numbers, our wealth, our strength and our future. Precisely the same counsels of timidity and the same warnings of disaster greeted every old accession of territory, and to-day nobody would surrender an inch.'

IN his famous speech to the Primrose League last month, Lord Salisbury said:

"You may roughly divide the nations of the world as the living and dying. On one side you have great countries of enormous power growing in power every year, growing in wealth, growing in dominion, growing in the perfection of their organization. Railways have given to them the power to concentrate upon any one point the whole military force of their population, and to assemble armies of a magnitude and power never dreamed of in the generations that have gone by. Science has placed in the hands of those armies weapons ever growing in their efficacy of destruction, and therefore adding to the power—fearfully to the power—of those who have the opportunity of using them. By the side of these splendid organizations, of which nothing seems to diminish the forces, and which present rival claims which the future may only be able by a bloody arbitrament to adjust—by the side of these there are a number of communities which I can only describe as dying, though the epithet applies to them, of course, in very different degrees and with a very different amount of certain application. They are mainly communities that are not Christian, but I regret to say that it is not exclusively the case, and in these states disorganization and decay are advancing almost as fast as concentration and increasing power are advancing in the living nations that stand beside them. Decade after decade they are weaker, poorer, and less provided with leading men or institutions in which they can trust, apparently drawing nearer and nearer to their fate, and yet clinging with strange tenacity to the life which they have got. In them misgovernment is not only not cured, but is constantly on the increase. The society, and official society—the administration—is a mass of corruption, so that there is no firm ground on which any hope of reform or restoration could be based, and in their various degrees they are presenting a terrible picture to the more enlightened portion of the world—a picture which, unfortunately, the increase in the means of our information and communication draws with darker and more conspicuous lineaments in the face of all nations, appealing to their feelings as well as to their interests, calling upon them to bring forward a remedy. How long this state of things is likely to go on of course I do not attempt to prophesy. All I can indicate is that that process is proceeding, that the weak states are becoming weaker and the strong states are becoming stronger. It needs no specialty of prophecy to point out to you what the inevitable result of that combined process must be. For one reason or for another—from the necessities of politics or under the pretense of philanthropy—the living nations will gradually encroach on the territory of the dying, and the seeds and causes of conflict among civilized nations will speedily appear. Of course it is not to be supposed that any one nation of the living nations will be allowed to have the profitable monotony of curing or cutting up these unfortunate patients, and the controversy is as to who shall have the privilege of doing so, and in what measure he shall do it. These things may introduce causes of fatal difference between the great nations whose mighty armies stand opposite, threatening each other."

Even without the speaker's significant exception it is clear what European state he had in mind as a conspicuous example of dying nations. Recognizing his accurate diagnosis of her own case, Spain promptly applied Salisbury's speech to herself and expressed offense thereat. But turn where she will there is none to aid so helpless a case, and the dying nation hastens to her just fate.

WITH THE VANGUARD

THE establishment of the beet-sugar industry in every locality adapted to it has been followed by an immediate improvement in the condition of agriculture. It has lifted farming out of old ruts and made it profitable, advanced the value of land, and brought surplus returns that have been converted into visible evidences of prosperity. Some of these changes are given in "American Beet Sugar" as follows:

"The effect on community life of the establishment of the beet-sugar industry, with necessary capital, amidst favorable physical conditions, is very striking. The results are best shown at Watsonville, Chino and Los Alamitos, California, and Lehi, Utah, particularly in the three last-named places. Chino has grown from a mere hamlet in the midst of a stock-farm to a town of no small importance. Over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum are paid to the beet-growers, in addition to a sum nearly as large for labor and officers' salaries connected with the factory. Lehi, Utah, was a very ordinary settlement. Its picturesque surroundings and fertile soil did not make a market for the farmers' products, and up to the date of the establishment of the sugar-factory there was little more than a bare living for the farmer; he had no bank account, his taxes were not always paid promptly, he owned no comfortable carriage or pleasure vehicle, his lines were hard and unpromising—as is too true in the case of all outlying farming villages, no matter where they are situated.

"But the sugar-factory came. A cash market, at a fixed price, was given him for his beets. Seven years have passed. A bank with seven hundred depositors exists, largely farmers, and when the writer visited this most interesting community the balance to the credit of the depositors exceeded \$70,000, although it was the end of the season and just before marketing the beets; hence, the time of all times when the cash on hand should be the least amount. The banker said, 'We have no delinquent taxes; the farmers are not in debt, as a class; they all, or nearly all, own comfortable carriages; their homes, though simple, are comfortable; pianos and other luxuries are not uncommon. Farm values are

FARM AND FIRESIDE

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NOTES ON RURAL AFFAIRS.

Baking-powders. Rural people spend a great deal of money for baking-powders. Our women-folks always call for one which, I think, costs fifty cents a pound. Now I would like to know what is so expensive about these powders? Surely soda, which constitutes the bulk of baking-powder, is quite cheap, costing only a few cents a pound. The other ingredients, citric or tartaric acid, alum, starch, or whatever they may be, cannot possibly bring the price of the whole compound up to fifteen cents a pound. Why are we asked such an outrageous price for it? Some years ago the Department of Agriculture investigated the baking-powders, but I believe there was a suspicion at the time that one baking-powder firm used the department for advertising purposes. I have a faint recollection that one of the New York stations once tried to give information on baking-powders. There also have been recipes without number published by the agricultural papers. And yet the public is quite in the dark about what a baking-powder is intended to do, and about what ingredients it should consist of. Will not some station issue a bulletin on these questions? If the office of a baking-powder is simply to create a gas to make the bread or cake light, what more can be needed for it besides soda bicarbonate and citric or tartaric acid. I do hate to pay fifty cents a pound for such a mixture when I can do my own mixing at a mere fraction of this amount. You chemists at Geneva, Ithaca (N. Y.), Wooster (Ohio), or Amherst (Mass.), etc., won't you give us some more light on these baking-powder questions?

* * *

Birds and Boys. Lately some of the small boys of the neighborhood have been frequently seen hunting over my place, apparently in search of bird's nests. One young fellow, on a Sunday morning, was aiming his little rifle at a bird in the tree, when I stopped him and gave him a good talking to, of course. I also requested the principal of our public schools to instruct his scholars about the usefulness of our song-birds and the need of their protection rather than of their destruction. There is a wide field open for missionary work. It seems to me that the idea of celebrating a bird-day in school—a

day given up wholly to "bird-talk" in word and picture is no less valuable than that of having an arbor-day. The teacher told me of one boy making a collection of bird's eggs. Even that should be discouraged, except where one wishes to make bird-lore (ornithology) a life study. In most cases this collecting eggs is a passion of short duration, without practical results of value, and frequently only an excuse for robbing the nests. The laws against the killing of song-birds and destruction of their nests (wherever such are on the statutes) should be more rigidly enforced against these thoughtless, youthful despoilers.

* * *

Bats as Insect-destroyers.

I have come across some additional evidence to show the great practical usefulness of the bat. Dr. C. F. Hodge, of Clark University, Worcester, Mass., writes about this subject in "Country Gentleman." In an orchard near his home he found nine grubs of the codling-moth in one minute. Chancing to visit another orchard not a mile from the first he found only four grubs in an hour's search. The owner of the farm said that in an old barn near by lived seventy-five to one hundred bats, and his apples were always free from worms. Dr. Hodge caught a bat and offered it some of the grubs, which were greedily accepted. He also took a dozen bats home and kept them in the parlor. They made their home in the top folds of the window draperies, flying about at night and sometimes in the daytime. From time to time netfuls of night-flying insects were released in the room, and never one remained in the morning. The bats took everything, from a spider to a polyphemous moth. One morning the doctor counted while a bat devoured sixty-eight house-flies. Many people think the bat is a mouse that enters chimneys and smoke-rooms in search of bacon or ham. I have had a similar experience with hats that I had with moles, when we tried to feed the latter in captivity on vegetable food. The moles would starve rather than eat corn or carrots, but snatched up a grub or worm very quickly. The bat did not notice fat meat or other food of that kind. But when I offered them flies they seldom waited for a second invitation to help themselves. People will have to learn to appreciate the useful hat as they in some measure have already learned to appreciate the not less useful toad. If it is possible to colonize bats, this may be a cheaper and safer method of fighting the codling-moth, cutworm-moth, peach-tree borer-moth, and many other pests of our orchards and gardens, than to rely on poisonous sprays. I have often seen bats take the European May-beetle while on the wing.

* * *

Our Helpers.

How fortunate is the young man and young wife when they first go to housekeeping and can do all their own work! They can do everything exactly to their own notions, and just as they think it should be done. But with the necessity of hiring help, in or out of the house, the trouble begins. The "hired man" and the "hired girl" are used to different ways of living and of "doing things" from your own, and it will take a good deal of effort to break them in if that be at all practicable. Often our helpers are rather sensitive to anything that appears to them like criticism. One does not care to be forever "finding fault" with them, even if that "finding fault" is couched in the mildest form of advice or request. Unless one be a good disciplinarian (which I am not), one has to submit being more or less slave to one's hired help. One might like to do many things on the farm a little different from what they are done; would like to plant potatoes, for instance, in a way more in accordance with modern notions of preparing the ground, etc.; would like to feed one's stock in slightly different ways, or to be more scrupulously clean in milking, and many other things; but many of us are easy-going with our help and let things pass. All this is endurable. The tyranny to which we have to submit in the house, however, is much more galling. The girl, a young thing of scarcely eighteen summers, is a quick and willing worker. She just rushes things. It is her hobby and her pride to do the most work in the least possible time. But this hobby is a rather expensive one to me. In order to earn the higher wages of the fast and willing worker she must

have the water boil and the haking and cooking done quickly, and so she drives piles of wood through the stove, and most of the heat through the chimney unused. Then she wants to please us by "setting a good table," and by giving us a great variety and plenty of good things, unfortunately mistaking richness for goodness, and forgetting that enough is as good as a feast. Every meal brings fresh temptation to overload our stomachs with rich viands. And every day brings an extra demand on the pocketbook and for extra amount of groceries, etc., a matter which in these days of high prices is most important. Sometimes I think that the girl should adjust her ways a little more to suit our notions and habits than that we have to change our ways altogether to suit her.

* * *

Perhaps a slow course of training will bring us the desirable change. One week I can tell her, perhaps, that good and wholesome coffee is only moderately strong. The coffee should be just steeped enough to extract the exquisite flavor of the pure coffee-berry. Most people keep the pot on the stove until all the poisonous bitter principle and coloring matter is boiled out of the coffee. I would rather go without coffee and depend on hot water for my drink than to punish myself and my stomach with our girl's "strong" coffee. When she has come to understand this fully I can tell her that our chocolate or cocoa would be all the better, more palatable and surely more easily digestible if she, in making it, were to use only half the quantity of cocoa and less sugar. Then a week or two later the lesson might be extended to the enforcement of stricter economy in the use of lard, butter, eggs, sugar, baking-powders, etc., as ordinarily used in making cakes, pies, cookies, etc. In this way, rather gradually and slowly, it may be possible to bring the girl to our ways of managing things—at a great saving of expenses and for the salvation of our sound stomachs and good health. If I succeed in this, it will be a blessing to the girl herself. I have sometimes wondered how it will be when she marries a man who has a monthly income of \$35 or \$40, and how far that amount will go in paying for household expenses at that rate. She would have to get used to a different style of cooking very quickly. It is better she should learn it before that time.

T. GREINER.

SALIENT FARM NOTES.

Sharp Tools. Above all things a farmer should keep his tools, from harvester, sickle and plowshare to scythe and hoe, sharp and bright. No man can do good and effective work with a dull tool, and every farmer should be ashamed to have a rusty one about his place. There are sickle-grinders on the market that will make a sickle as sharp as a razor in a few minutes, while they are so nearly automatic that about all one has to do is to set the sickle in a frame and turn a handle. A light team will draw a moyer fitted with a sharp sickle through the heaviest kind of grass with ease, while it would almost kill a heavy team to draw a dull sickle through it.

Some farmers have the blacksmith draw the edge of the plowshare out very thin and then touch it up a little every morning and noon with a heavy file, while others keep an anvil and beat them out every morning. This latter operation requires some skill and good eyes, as well as a second person to hold the plow.

If a man has no handy power to turn the grindstone it should be set in a frame with a seat and two treadles so that one man can run it with ease and grind any tool rapidly. I notice that forty-five to fifty pound stones fitted with seat and treadles are sold for \$2.70. A man can turn a stone so fitted much steadier and easier than a tired, small boy can, and when he bears on a little too heavily he knows it.

For sharpening hoes, spades, shovels, etc., a good file is best. When I buy a new spade or shovel I have the blacksmith draw the edge out thin, so that it can easily be kept sharp with a little filing occasionally.

* * *

The farmer who for one year makes a practice of doing his work with sharp, bright, perfect tools will not thereafter tolerate any other on his place. He learns that a man can do fifty per cent more work and do it fifty per cent better with such tools than with dull, rusty make-

shifts. When using a hoe for any length of time a man should carry a small file in his pocket and touch up the edge a little about once an hour. The implement will work much easier. If a fork loses a tine don't give it to the boy to work with, but lay it away. You may have use for the handle sometime, but don't let anybody do half work and blister his hands trying to use it.

* * *

Wherever tools are kept there should be a good wad of greasy rags kept there also; and when a tool is put away it should be cleaned and then rubbed over with the rags. When this is done there will be no rusty tools to annoy the worker. If a tool is wet it must be wiped dry before the grease is applied or it will rust. If the farmer makes it a rule that all tools must be put in their proper places clean, dry and greased, he will always find them in good working condition.

* * *

Care of the Orchard.

In looking through the orchard a few days ago I noticed quite a number of sprouts springing out from the edges of wounds made in cutting out branches to open up the top. Just now these are quickly and easily removed with a pair of light shears. In a short time they will be two to four feet long and hard, and then a chisel or pruning-shears will be needed to cut them out, while so much of tree-strength is wasted. I think there is no place where a stitch in time will save so many as in the orchard. A sprout nipped here, a shoot pinched there, and a rampant branch stopped yonder, soon make the perfect open-topped, well-balanced, beautiful tree every orchardist so much admires.

* * *

This is the month to look for borers about the base of the young tree. Don't neglect this. One to five minutes spent in examining the trunk and removing any young borer that may have gotten in half an inch or so is well spent, and often is the means of saving valuable trees. Some orchardists paint the lower part of the trunks with whitewash made of lime and water to which a little carbolic acid is added, but many experienced men declare that washes of this sort are of little real use. I think it is a good idea to take a little grafting-wax along when you go hunting for borers; then if you are obliged to cut into a tree to destroy the pest the wound you make can quickly be covered with a little wax, and it will soon heal over.

* * *

Haying-time Is about here, and every farmer should be ready for it. That is, he should know that all the tools to be used are in first-class order, and that plenty of machine-oil is on hand, extra sections for the sickles, etc. It is a good idea to have all extra help needed engaged in such a way that you are sure of it. I am sure it pays well to give good wages at this time, and push things. Get efficient help, feed them well, pay them well, and hustle. In this matter of hiring help for haying or harvest no live farmer will offer "the going wages." He will select his men, offer a good wage and have everything in readiness so that not one moment will be lost and every man will earn every cent he gets. Remember that well-fed and well-paid men can and will work when things go with a rush and without friction. When the work is done pay up promptly. You will lose nothing by so doing.

FRED GRUNDY.

CHEMICALS FOR WEEDS.

We often receive inquiries from readers who want to know whether chemicals can be used in destroying weeds on roads and gravel walks. Prof. L. R. Jones, of the Vermont experiment station, has investigated this matter considerably, and says that the following chemicals seem most successful: Salt, sulphate of copper, sulphuric acid, carbolic acid, kerosene and arsenic. Salt is most commonly used on walks to keep down weeds, and if liberally applied, will destroy most of them. Prof. Shutt, of the experiment farms at Ottawa, Canada, recommends the following simple and very effective formula: Two pounds of sulphate of copper, or blue vitriol, and six gallons of hot water; dissolve and apply as a spray, or through an ordinary sprinkling-pot. Any one having considerable trouble with weeds, and grass growing on roads and paths, will do well to try these mixtures during the coming season.—Rural New-Yorker.

Our Farm.

FARM THEORY AND PRACTICE.

BETTER BUSINESS METHODS.—The agent is abroad, and we have no quarrel with him. This is his season of the year for the sale of farm implements, buggies, fertilizers and fencing material, and he is "diligent in business," just as St. Paul exhorts all to be. He adapts his methods to the conditions and usages prevailing among us, and if those methods are not the best that could be devised for the farmers the blame lies not with the agents, but with the farmers. The agents are wide-awake business men, accepting conditions as they find them, and turning them to their advantage. Farmers know how to work hard for income, and if they do not make the money go as far as possible in the purchase of supplies, they must accept the blame for failure in this respect. It is the easiest thing in the world for us to criticize the agents who get more money for their goods than we are able to pay, but it will be more profitable to note wherein we are responsible for the wide difference between the actual cost of manufacture of most of our supplies and the amount we actually pay for the goods.

AGENT'S NET PROFITS.—A little consideration should convince farmers that agents are not getting rich very fast. Competition regulates that matter. If there was a big net profit in sales of supplies to farmers competition would cut it down at once. Thousands more would go into the business. I am fully convinced that most agents make no more money than their energy in other lines of work would secure for them. In fact, I am acquainted with some business houses that are dropping the sale of farm implements on the ground that the business does not pay them. And yet any man that is posted knows that retail prices of most farm supplies are so high that there exists a wide margin between them and the cost of manufacture. What is the matter? Simply this: The methods of doing business to which the farmers are accustomed, and for whose continuance they are responsible, are costly and wasteful.

WHAT FARMERS PAY FOR.—It is easy to understand the necessity of wide margins between cost of production and retail selling-price when we hear in mind that farmers, as a class, pay for five things they do not need. These are: (1) The time of some man to persuade them to buy; (2) the privilege of returning the goods if not wanted after a trial; (3) a few months' use of the goods before payment is made; (4) the risk that payment may never be made, and (5) the time of the dealer in making collections. The selling-price is made high enough to cover these charges, or else the dealers become bankrupt. It seems queer that an intelligent farmer would pay a man for his time and labor in persuading him to buy. He should find time and opportunity for learning just what he needs, and should not pay for advice. In the case of ordinary farm implements the kind needed is usually in use on some farm in the vicinity. A "make" in general use in the neighborhood is always preferable, everything else being equal, because there will be less trouble about repairs, as it will pay the dealer to keep them in stock. When an implement can be seen at work on a farm its desirability can be learned, and there is then no necessity of buying "on trial" and paying for a useless privilege. But it is chiefly the credit item that makes prices high. The manufacturer of farm supplies and the dealer in them have learned that business with farmers means the investment of lots of capital and slow cash returns. Money is tied up for months, and oftentimes for years, and there can be no close figuring on margins as is the case where goods sell quickly for cash. Sales are made in expensive ways, collections are slow, there is continual risk of loss in various ways, and prices are made accordingly.

THE CASH BUYER.—The man who has a reputation for paying cash and will not accept credit has a great advantage in the market. Dealers are aware that a dollar of apparent profit in a sale to him is a dollar in cash, and they will not let it es-

cape them. He is master of the situation. When he hands over the cash with the order he can name a price only slightly above manufactured price, and the dealer will not refuse it and let him go to a competitor. If all farmers did likewise the usual selling-prices could be scaled down to all customers. Probably half our farmers do not have the money on hand for all purchases, but they should understand that a great saving would be made if they would borrow the money, pay a reasonable interest for it, and then do a cash business. It is difficult to get out of debt when buying on credit. A big interest charge is included in the price finally paid. It is far more pleasant and profitable to owe only one man, pay a reasonable charge for use of the money, and then be independent of other individuals and of credit prices. If farmers would adopt this course there would be gain in cheapness of supplies in net profit from farming, in reputation of farmers and in independence.

BANK ACCOUNTS.—The average farmer should be a patron of a bank. If he would conduct his business in the most profitable manner he must have a small cash capital all the time. Country banks are willing to open accounts with those who never carry very large amounts on deposit. When a crop is sold the money should go into the bank, and supplies should be paid with check. The depositor in a bank has a sort of financial standing in the business world. He can order goods from a distance, and send his own check with the order in payment. He is in position to close, to buy where he pleases, to pay as other business pays, and need ask no favors. It is better to borrow the money absolutely needed in the year's farm business, and deposit it in the bank ready for draft, than to be placed at the disadvantage of letting dealers and neighbors carry one in credit. The latter method is a ruinously costly one, no matter whether the fact is fully realized or not, and must be decidedly unpleasant. DAVID.

LIQUID FERTILIZERS.

The value of liquid fertilizers is well known to the Chinese gardeners, who adopt every method possible to obtain some perfect system of distribution. I have examined numerous fertilizing-rats made by these experienced soil-culturists, and am not surprised at their harvesting so many crops and collecting so much money annually from small areas. The cheapest vat and that most generally used in the West consists of a hole dug in the ground and filled with stable manure. This is weighted down solidly during the winter and early spring, and a ditch of water is turned in at the top. When the vat fills the liquid rises to the surface and runs away in the small irrigating-ditches to the plants requiring fertilization. In some instances the water is turned off when the vat is filled, and after two or three days the colored liquid is dipped up in tin or iron buckets and carried to the particular plants the gardener desires to make a rapid growth for the early market, and poured on the fo-



liage and around the roots. He uses tin cups or dippers for this work, giving each plant the same quantity, being careful not to waste the least particle.

A German gardener and small-fruit grower has the most perfect system of applying liquid fertilizers. His plant consists of a large home-made hoghead built on a hillside, so that water can be run in at the top and drawn out from the bottom. This holds two or more wagon-loads of manure, and is easily filled and emptied with a shovel or manure-fork. The liquid is drawn off by means of a two-inch hole supplied with a hollow faucet. Some light troughs, made of half-inch material, twelve feet in length and about four inches in width, put together in a V-shape, carry the liquid where wanted, and empty it into a larger trough, from which it is distrib-

uted. The large trough should be about one foot wide, six inches deep and ten to twelve feet long, in order not to be too heavy for carrying or dragging about. This may be dispensed with entirely by simply shoveling out a similar-sized reservoir to hold the liquid temporarily while it is divided into the small furrows. If the trough is used, auger-holes should be bored in one side every foot or more to allow the liquid to escape. These holes can be stopped by plugs or by nailing tin lids inside, to raise when needed or dropped down when holes are closed.

Last year I hauled several loads of well-rotted manure mixed with straw, and scattered in piles at the head of my garden irrigating furrows. The water was turned from the main into the laterals and soaked through the manure with the result that the strength of those manure heaps was applied direct to the roots of vegetables through the irrigations. Tomatoes thus treated yielded one half bushel to the plant, and ripened nicely at an altitude of 6,000 feet above sea-level. Every experiment made has demonstrated that liquid fertilizers are valuable, and a vat will amply repay the gardener and small-fruit



grower who depends upon the market. The products can be obtained earlier, the quality is superior, and the quantity almost doubles from judicious fertilizing by some liquid applications. If no other process is available, a spray-pump, which every gardener and orchardist should have to fight insects, may be satisfactorily used in connection with liquid fertilizers. The plants are not injured or made unfit for use by using liquid fertilizers, as there is no odor taint left after a few hours, and the growing vegetables take up the elements desired the same as from manure spread upon the soil. JOEL SHOMAKER.

LIVE-STOCK ADVANCEMENT.

Breeders of live-stock have an encouraging outlook. Several causes combined have materially advanced prices in meat products. There is no oversupply of any sort of live-stock at the present time. Values have ranged low for several years because of the general depression in business. There has not been at any time so much of a surplus over the people's needs, but there was rather a surplus of poverty among the consumers. Very many families during the past five years have bought less meat than during a like period at any other era of their lives. Conditions are now changed. The great majority of working people, in fact, nearly all, find employment now that enables them to buy good average rations of food. Only one serious phase presents itself. War is advancing prices so rapidly that salaries of the employed may be inadequate to follow the rapidly increased values of provisions. There is, however, every inducement to the stock-grower to plan for an increase in his flocks and herds. The flock-master is especially encouraged, as the government will require immense quantities of clothing for the soldiers. The sheep valued especially for wool are now to have better days.

There is danger when prices are good of adopting slack methods of conducting the stock business. The feeling arises that one can afford extravagance in good times.

The past five years' experience for most people will suggest the importance of rigid economy for some time to come to recover recent losses. They who renew investments in live-stock, having withdrawn from the industry in the dawn of the depression years ago, need to be on their guard against extravagant notions. Corn, oats, barley and rye are very much advanced in worth, and

are not to be used in feeding except under careful methods. Where cattle, hogs and sheep can graze over cheap pasture-lands, if there is abundant supply of such food, it is well from this time forward, until after midsummer, to husband all old grain very carefully. Several causes may conspire to reduce the coming crop this season, and be it however great, it promises now to have large intrinsic value.

Much thought and careful observation must be given the grazing stock during early summer to guard against the ills and ailments which attend the grazing diet. All need to be reminded of the well-known preventives, such as lime in the drinking-water and salt and ashes for condiments. And it is always well to have dry provender, such as corn-fodder, straw or hay, always in reach of horses, cattle and sheep. It pays to leave the plow or other implement wait for an hour or two, if necessary, to take the time for carefully noting the condition of the digestion of all the grazing animals, from the youngest to the oldest, in early summer. Prompt attention to any irregularities will be well rewarded in the end, as decline in condition in early summer is not easily checked except by ready action. M. A. R.

PICKED POINTS.

THE PASSING OF MUTTON.—In the Eastern and Middle states sheep have ceased to be grown for mutton. All the mutton used is that of old and discarded ewes, unless it comes from the far West. The retail markets want only lambs. Mutton isn't "in it." It is wisdom to push lambs to a finish as soon as possible, for a six months' fat lamb will pay better than to keep it a year, and a two months' fat lamb, if seasonable, will bring more than a six months' lamb.

THE PASSING OF SHEEP-WASHING.—Until quite recently sheep used to be brook-washed just before shearing. Sometimes they were driven miles in the heat and dust to reach a suitable spot. The animals, overheated as they were, were pitched into a pool of cold water to their great discomfort and consternation, soused around awhile, turned over and over and finally brought out dripping. Many caught cold in consequence, and coughed and sneezed perhaps for weeks. The process was cruelty to animals. Humane editors inveighed against the practice in season and out. Finally the late era of low wool came. Some said wool hardly paid for the shearing of it, and they neglected to wash the wool on the sheep's back, but sold the clip for what they could get. Finally buyers began to buy wool on its merits as it was offered them, washed or unwashed, and all producers gradually dropped into the arrangement, and now "washing sheep" is a thing of the past. Some good usually comes out of evil, and the evil of low wool put an end to this inhuman practice.

EARLY-BREEDING OF SHEEP.—As young lambs bring more in winter and early spring than even they or mature sheep bring at any later age, it is an object to breed early. The general time of breeding sheep is in the fall; but this brings lambs too late for best prices. July and August are the months to mate the sexes. Ewes to be selected are those which are in excellent condition, and which have not nursed a lamb for a month or two. Then let them be kept on good pasture where there is plenty of shade and cool drinking-water convenient. Then turn with them a strange vigorous ram. But with all of these precautions a share of these ewes will not breed until late, unless they had previously been accustomed to breed early. It is natural for sheep to breed at a year from the time they last bred. A good way to get early breeders is to grow them. Keep the ewe lambs of this spring from breeding until July or August of next year, and then there will be little trouble about it, and one will have a flock of natural early breeders. Some claim success in early breeding by feeding grain in summer, until bred; and others starve their sheep a day or two just previous to mating; but from observations I can say neither is reliable. The early-lamb business is worthy the attention of every farmer who keeps sheep, unless he grows sheep for breeders. One can manage to get twice as much for a two months' lamb as he can for a lamb or the mature sheep for mutton any time after the age of two months.

DR. GALEN WILSON.

Our Farm.

NOTES FROM GARDEN AND FIELD.

OTHER MAGGOT REMEDIES.—A few rows of cauliflower where no tarred-felt collars had been used show that the maggots are still in existence and seemingly in increased numbers. From fifty plants in one row hardly a plant is now left, and those that remain in other rows are "few and far between." My Early Jersey Wakefield cabbages had all been "collared," but in the first cultivation after that about an inch of loose soil (more or less) had been covered over the collars, and a subsequent rain packed this soil well upon them. An examination a few days ago revealed the presence of plenty of cabbage-fly eggs on the cabbage-stems just below the surface of the soil, above the collar, of course. I had the stems laid bare, the collars removed, leaving each plant in a little cup-like depression. Then I made a kerosene emulsion (one fourth of a pound of whale-oil soap, one gallon of kerosene, two quarts of water), and sprayed this, reduced with about ten parts of water, against the stems of the plants for the sake of killing what eggs remained on or near the stems, and possibly repelling the fly also by means of the kerosene and whale-oil soap smell. The plants will have to be closely watched, however. Another treatment with kerosene emulsion will be given if required.

MR. MARSH'S MAGGOT REMEDY.—Mr. Marsh is no stranger to our readers. He is the man who makes a business of growing cauliflower-seed at Puget sound, and excellent seed it is, of course. The maggot-plague is a serious one for him, for the cauliflower is the favorite plant-food of this enemy. Mr. Marsh uses with good effect a compound of lard, one pound; tallow, four pounds; sweet-oil, one half of a pint, and crude carbolic acid, one half of an ounce, on somewhat the same principle as I have used the tarred-felt collars; that is, chiefly as a mechanical protection. The soil is scraped away from the stem so as to have a little depression around it. Then the compound is warmed up to the melting-point, and about a teaspoonful of this poured into the depression next to the stem. It settles all around the stem and hardens, and even if it should not prevent the fly from depositing its eggs it would give to the newly hatched maggot very little chance to get down to the stem below the ground, which is the point of attack. I have full faith in the efficacy of this treatment.

MAKING CUCUMBERS AND MELONS SET FRUIT.—A subscriber asks how he should manage his cucumbers so they will set fruit more freely. His plants last year grew very thriftily and bloomed very freely, but failed to set fruit. I would give a good deal for a clear insight into the mysteries of fruit-production. Sometimes a vine, without apparent reason, will produce only male blossoms and few fruit-blossoms. Another vine may produce plenty of fruit or female blossoms, yet fail to set fruit. Almost all fruit-trees this spring bloomed heavily. I never saw pears and cherries loaded more fully with blossoms than this year; yet most of the trees, notwithstanding the apparently favorable weather, have set very little fruit. Why this happened I am unable to explain, and I do not feel competent, either, to reply authoritatively to my friend's inquiry. Theoretically, plants grown from old seed or on rather poor soil should produce fruit-blossoms and set fruit more freely than plants grown from fresh seed or growing in very rich land. On the other hand, I usually make my land rich, and recommend to others to manure the land very liberally, in order to secure a heavy yield of pickles or melons. Possibly the soil might have been too moist and lacking in mineral plant-foods. Try once a liberal dressing of wood-ashes.

PREPARED HOTBED SOIL.—Much of the success in getting plants properly started to grow and to endure without setback the operation of transferring to open ground depends on the proper preparation of the soil for the greenhouse and frames. The most common fault made by average gardeners is to use too loose and too rich soil for growing tomato, cabbage and sim-

ilar plants. They thus force a slender succulent growth which does not bear transplanting well. The soil for growing early tomato-plants especially should be a rather strong and tenacious loam that will retain moisture and stick well to the roots. The plants can thus be kept down short and stocky and be allowed to remain in the greenhouse a long time without forcing them to grow up immoderately tall and slim. With a solid chunk of such loam plants are easily transplanted without receiving a check in growth. I find that the loose soil which I have frequently used for the boxes in which I grow my tomato-plants (soil consisting mostly of old manure, sand, muck, etc.), often dries out completely, even with supposedly free watering in the greenhouse, and will crumble all to pieces, leaving the roots more or less exposed when the box is removed preparatory to setting the plant in open ground. It is a hard task, too, to get this soil when once thoroughly dry soaked up sufficiently to adhere to the roots. Even submerging under water will not quickly accomplish it. In short, a strong, fibrous loam is better for the purposes of growing such plants than a loose, made soil. The best soil that I know of is prepared as follows: Go to an old meadow or pasture where the soil is a clean, reasonably strong loam. Cut out sods four or five inches thick, and carefully pile them up in a solid square heap, with a little strong horse manure between the layers. Do this now, at least without much delay. Leave the sods to rot, and perhaps to assist in rotting pour water over the heap from time to time. The washing-suds from the wash-house will come handy for this purpose. Towards fall spade or shovel the pile over. Always leave in a square heap and moist enough to encourage rotting. Repeat the spading over until the whole mass is well fined and in shape for use. On the proper preparation of such soil much of your next season's success with plants will depend.

T. GREINER.

ORCHARD AND SMALL FRUITS.

CONDUCTED BY SAMUEL B. GREEN.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY THE PLUM-CURCULIO BY JARRING THE TREES.

The plum-curculio beetles, which lay their eggs in the plums, become stiffened on cool nights, and hence may be readily jarred from the tree in early morning. Advantage is taken of this fact to jar them upon a sheet-covered frame placed beneath the trees, on which they may be destroyed by hand. This method is commonly known as the "jarring process," and is the most important means of combating the curculio. Several forms of curculio-catchers are sold in the plum districts of the Eastern states, but the form here shown may be made by any one handy

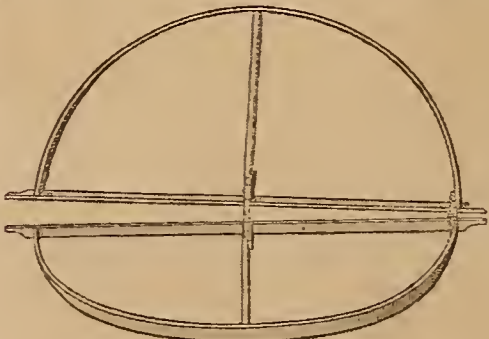


FIG. 1.

with carpenter's tools, and is not expensive. To secure the greatest lightness the frame is made circular, and for convenience in handling it is made in two sections, which are joined by hinges, one of which is placed at the center and the other at one end of the frame. The other end is left without a hinge to form a slot for the center of the frame, permitting it to be slipped beneath the tree, so that the trunk of the tree will stand at the center of the frame. For full-grown plum-trees the frame should be about ten feet in diameter, which is as large as can be conveniently handled. In trees of the largest size it is necessary to place the frame beneath part of the tree at a time.

The hoop shown in Fig. 1 is formed of a strip of clear yellow pine three eighths by three inches; the other wood parts of the frame are of white pine seven eighths by three inches. The ends of the hoop are secured at the slot-end by bits of sheet-iron fastened to the parts with light clinch-nails. The whole frame is then covered with heavy sheeting or unbleached muslin,

which is fastened to the different parts with carpet-tacks, after which the slot is cut open along one of the wood strips to the center, where a small hole is cut out to accommodate the trunk of the tree. The free edge of the cloth flap thus formed is then tacked to a light strip of wood of sufficient width so that it will cover the seam formed by cutting the cloth, and rest by its own weight on the frame beyond. A bit of old rubber hose or a mat of cloth is next tacked to the main pieces of the frame at the center, and the apparatus is ready for use. The manner of using it appears in Fig. 2. Two men are required to operate it readily and rapidly. When the apparatus has been placed about the tree, a stub formed by sawing off a small limb at the top of the trunk is struck two or three brisk blows with a light mallet having a long handle, when the curculios drop on the sheet, usually accompanied with numerous other insects. As the curculio is a small insect, very close observa-



FIG. 2.

vation is necessary to detect it on the cloth, but with practice it is more readily discerned. The insects may all be swept into a box or pail and destroyed together, but this method kills many harmless and some beneficial species, while it requires nearly or quite as much time as to hunt out the curculios and destroy them singly. More than four or five curculios are seldom found beneath one tree on a given morning.

As soon as the young fruits commence to form, watch should be begun for the curculio, and when the crescent-shaped marks appear the warfare should commence. The work should start before sunrise if the number of trees to be gone over is large, and should proceed every fair morning as long as any curculios are found. On very windy, cloudy or rainy mornings the insects are not extant, hence it is useless to go over the trees. The number of mornings it is necessary to apply the jarring process varies much with different seasons. If cold and rainy periods are frequent the egg-laying period is prolonged so that it may be necessary to continue it three or even four weeks, but if the weather is uniformly warm and bright two weeks may suffice.

The jarring process is less expensive than it might at first appear. It should be remembered that it is necessary to spend but a moment at each tree each morning. A total outlay in labor of ten or twenty cents a tree will usually suffice to save a crop from serious injury, an expenditure that is abundantly warranted by a good setting of fruit.

While the jarring process greatly lessens damage from the curculio, it must be admitted that it is not a complete preventive. The fact that the insects are removed from the trees during the egg-laying period presumes some damage to the crop. In addition to the jarring process all plums that fall prematurely should be promptly gathered and destroyed by burning or otherwise, before the larvae have time to escape. This is scarcely less important than jarring the trees.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Plum-curculio.—G. M. R., Conway Springs, Kan. It is the curculio that lays its eggs in the plums and causes them to fall off. It is a little dark-brown snout-beetle, and the remedy is to lay sheets on the ground, and by jarring the trees early in the morning during May or June the beetles will fall and may be gathered. See article on this subject in this issue of FARM AND FIRESIDE.

Probably Fire-blight.—J. R. S., Brownsville, Tenn. Your apple-trees are probably affected by what is known as fire-blight, although I cannot be sure from your description of the trouble that this is the cause, and it may be due to some insects. I would have to see a specimen of the injured twigs to be sure of the cause. I would suggest, however, if you are sure no insect is present, that you cut off and burn the affected parts, as this is the proper treatment for fire-blight.

Strawberry Seedlings.—J. H., Kratzville, Pa. To produce new varieties of strawberries the seed must be sown, and this, as you well know, is on the outside of the berry. One method of doing this, which I have followed very successfully, is to crush the ripe berries in dry sand; allow to dry a little, and then sow sand and seed in a box of good loam or in a bed. It soon comes up, and as soon as it has its second leaves well developed transplant to a good bed about two inches apart. In the course of four weeks, say by September 1st, the plants will be large enough to set out permanently. They often make runners the first year, but seldom fruit until the third season. Probably not one plant in a thousand will be worth saving.

Kentucky Coffee-tree.—P. W., Gilbertville, Iowa, writes: "As I was strolling through the woods near Gilbertville along the Cedar river I found several trees beautifully shaped, and they resemble the catalpa somewhat. I have inquired around here what kind of trees they are, but no one seems to know."

REPLY:—The tree that bore the large, flat pod containing the large bean-like black seeds is what is known as Kentucky coffee-tree (*Gymnocladus canadensis*). It is not a common tree anywhere, but it is found occasionally throughout the Mississippi valley as far north as Mankato, Minn. It is very hardy, and can often be used to advantage in ornamental planting.

Planting a Vineyard.—R. G., Newport, Ohio. The best location for a vineyard, generally speaking, is on an open, porous, somewhat retentive soil, having a southern exposure. The distance between the vines will depend somewhat upon the varieties planted. For some of the weaker-growing varieties eight feet apart each way would be ample distance, while others would require at least ten feet in the row. In order to answer your question in full more space would be required than can be given in the columns of a paper of this sort, and would suggest that if you are going into the raising of grapes extensively that you had better get some little book on the subject, such as "Training of Grapes," by Prof. Bailey, for in this way you would be able to get the general principles underlying the subject, which it is important one should understand before going into such a venture. I would suggest that you talk with the best grape-growers that you can reach personally and find out their ways of growing grapes, and whether they are making any money in the business.

Insects for Name.—H. G., Harmony, Ga. The small insect shaped something like an oyster-shell, which covers the twig which you inclose, is what is known as an oyster-shell bark-louse. It is one of the scale-insects. Its life habits are about as follows: In the spring of the year small clusters of eggs will be found under the shells on the twigs. Along about the first of June, or perhaps earlier in your section, these eggs hatch, and the young crawl out from under the edges of the shells, and move about for a few days, when they become fixed in place and insert their suckers in the bark to obtain nourishment; they do not move after this time, but increase in size during the summer, and in the autumn have reached the length of about one eighth of an inch, and the skin has become a hardened case. Under this case the female lays her eggs and dies, and it is these eggs that are found on the trees in the spring, and which are first referred to. This insect is an extremely difficult one to destroy. It is most susceptible to injury soon after the eggs have hatched, when it will be found moving about the tree, but it only goes a short distance. At this time kerosene emulsion and probably even tobacco-water will destroy it. After the insect has become fixed in place and the outside shell has become hardened, it is difficult to reach with any known insecticide. Alkali washes employed in the winter and followed by strong kerosene emulsion are among the best remedies. Recently, however, some of our best entomologists have been recommending the application of clear kerosene when the tree is dormant in the winter, spraying it on thoroughly on clear days when there is a good wind blowing, so that the kerosene will be quickly evaporated. This has been found a very satisfactory remedy, and when properly applied there is probably no danger of injury to the tree. I have not had a chance myself of trying this remedy on the oyster-shell bark-louse on apple-trees, but have tried it for the similar scale-insects that are found on the willow. In my case I took a paint-brush and early in the spring painted the bark of the tree, when scales were abundant, with clear kerosene, working it well into the bark and without any injury whatever to the tree, and with the result of completely destroying all the scales. Of course, kerosene could not be used safely when the tree was in leaf, and it is almost useless to try to kill these insects during the growing season, unless the work is done at the time when the young have hatched and are moving on the tree. This insect is distributed in various ways, but principally by scions and cuttings and by nursery stock. They are also undoubtedly carried from tree to tree on the feet of birds, and possibly on the bodies of our larger insects. The insect with the light, wooly covering, which was probably present when you shipped the twigs, but was gone when it reached me, is one of the mealy-bugs, and will need remedies about the same as for the oyster-shell bark-louse. I do not think it the woolly aphid, but if the trees are doing poorly, dig out some of the smaller roots, and if you find insects on them, or find them very rough, send them to me.

A Good Appetite

Is Essential for the Health and Strength of the Body.

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Our Farm.

A FEW DESIRABLE EVERGREENS.

THE use of coniferous evergreens would be more general on private grounds, and especially on farm grounds, if the varieties and their natures were better understood. Conifers will grow in all soil except that which is wet, and all of them are highly ornamental and present a great variety of forms and distinctiveness in foliage. The old theory that evergreens can only be successfully transplanted in June is fast dying out. As a matter of fact, they can be handled safely in the early spring or early fall. In the North we have found the best time in the spring to be from the middle of April to the middle of May, and in the fall from the middle of August to the middle of September.

While, as stated, evergreens will succeed in nearly all soils, it is but natural that the best results will be gained when they are grown in soil moderately rich, although many of the firs and pines, the former in particular, will make a vigorous growth in thin soils and on exposed hillsides.

The best measure of success in transplanting evergreens is had when the trees have an abundance of fine fibrous roots, and such trees can only be had from nurseries where frequent transplanting or root-pruning is practised.

One of the finest lawn trees of the evergreen class is the beautiful white silver fir (*Abies concolor*), commonly known as the Colorado fir, after its place of origin. It grows to a height of twenty-five feet or more; the leaves are long, broad and leathery, with a glaucous tinge when young, changing to pale green with age. The branches are arranged in horizontal whorls, giving the tree a decidedly striking appearance.

The tiger-tail spruce is a magnificent tree for the lawn; its habit of growth is dense, the branches thickly set, with stiff, sharp-pointed leaves of a deep shade of green. It grows only to a moderate height, and with its horizontal branches and pendulous twigs is very handsome.

Rocky mountain blue spruce (*Picea pungens*) is rightly called the "queen of the spruces." It is a dense-growing pyramidal tree, with stiff-jointed foliage varying in color from deep green to silver-gray. In the variety glauca the silvery color of the foliage is very pronounced, more so than in any evergreen with which I am familiar, making it at once a handsome and striking lawn ornament.

Among pines the Swiss stone-pine (*Pinus cembra*) is undoubtedly most attractive for the lawn. It grows to a medium height, is somewhat pyramidal in form, and is thickly branched to the ground. The foliage is dense, silvery in shade, and the formation is more of a feathery nature than any other evergreen, making it a decidedly striking specimen among conifers.

The golden plumy Japan cypress (*C. obtusa*, variety *Plumosa aurea*) is one of the best of the family, aside from some of the dwarf varieties for general ornamentation. Indeed, so far as the opinion of the writer may be of value, it, with *C. squarrosa*, are the only varieties of cypress which will be found satisfactory in the hands of the ordinary grower. *C. plumosa aurea* is showy, easily cultivated and attractive as a single specimen for grouping with other evergreens or for an ornamental hedge. When young the foliage is deep golden-yellow, retaining its color throughout the season. *C. squarrosa* is of dense irregular growth and soft silvery foliage. The tree is graceful and branches nearly to the ground.

Thuja occidentalis, variety *pyramidalis*, pyramidal arbor-vitae, is one of the most desirable of the class, and is rapidly taking the place of the Irish juniper, when a tree of pyramid form is desired. It is fully as dense and straight as the juniper, perfectly hardy, with distinct dark green foliage. Beyond all doubt the best of all evergreen pyramidal trees for single specimens.

The dwarf evergreens have come into general use rapidly of late, and yet not so many of them are planted as there should be. For corners on the lawn, set in groups at the bend of a driveway or even as individual specimens on the lawn they are unsurpassed. One of the finest arrangements of dwarf evergreens I ever saw was a group of some fifty plants just at the sharp bend in the driveway, as it

wound through the grounds, surrounding a certain farm-house. The plan showed an almost perfect gradation of shade from the bluish-green foliage of the heath-leaved Japan cypress to the bright foliage of the golden arbor-vitae.

One of the most unique of dwarf evergreens is the obtuse Japan cypress, which is especially desirable along the edge of walks or set in groups. The plant is dwarf, of slow growth and fine dense foliage of good color and arrangement.

The heath-leaved Japan cypress is a conical plant, with small, soft foliage of bluish-green in summer, shading to a rich bronze in winter. Choice and hardy, and succeeds in any soil.

The golden Chinese juniper is one of the most brilliant colored of all evergreens, and should be planted in the full sunlight to bring out the beauty of the golden-yellow foliage.

Parson's compact arbor-vitae is very dwarf, the foliage dense, of good color, and the plant forms a perfect globe with but little pruning. One of the best varieties for single specimen on small grounds.

Woodward's arbor-vitae is a most desirable sort, and is much used for dividing portions of the grounds, along drives and for borders or line divisions in cemeteries. It is perfectly hardy, will grow in any soil, and requires little or no pruning to preserve its natural globular form. The foliage is dense, deep green, very pleasing and attractive.

The foregoing list by no means comprises all the desirable evergreens, but enough of the best for general planting are named to give the interested reader a choice which cannot fail to please. There is no reason why farm grounds should not have specimens of the choice varieties of evergreens, instead of planting of the more common sorts, for as a rule they are but a trifle more costly; and as stated in the beginning, about all that is required to grow them successfully is to see that they have an abundance of fibrous roots, transplant them at the proper season and in fairly good soil.

GEO. R. KNAPP.

MAKING BUTTER IN SUMMER.

I wish to tell how gilt-edge butter may be made with no better facilities than a good well of cold water and a common cellar. I prefer tin vessels for setting the milk; am now using flaring gallon buckets. They are light, cheap, easily kept clean, and sweet. The cellar is kept clean, freshly whitewashed and well aired. It should be ventilated at night, but kept closed through the day. If there is a damp, moldy smell, remove the milk, scald with as small a quantity of water as will do the work, and wipe up dry. Copperas scattered in the corners and a box of slaked lime are good to absorb the damp. I set the milk on the bottom of the cellar and cover with a frame made of lath. Nail four lath into a square, and put one every six inches. Put a leg at each corner, a foot or more high. Tack muslin over this frame, and you have a light, secure cover for twenty buckets of milk. The muslin can be removed and washed once a month, and the frame scoured and sunned, which is a great improvement over the heavy wooden lids, besides letting the milk cool quicker and throw off the odors that a close cover confines in the milk.

The utmost care must be taken to keep milk free of taint from the stable to the churn. A wire strainer covered with a thin muslin cloth will keep out any stray hair and sediment that may accidentally fall into the bucket. The milk must not set over thirty-six hours in cool weather and twenty-four in warm weather. If the cellar will not keep it sweet in hot, damp weather, it should be skimmed every twelve hours, or as soon as it turns. I use four-gallon tin buckets with lids for cream. I keep the cream hung in the well. Every time cream is added, stir thoroughly, that it may ripen evenly. It should be churned every other day in warm weather.

Use a churn thermometer. The temperature should be sixty degrees in summer and sixty-two degrees in winter. A barrel-churn is my favorite. When the butter comes in small globules, draw off the milk, throw in a handful of salt and a bucketful of cold water. The salt will help separate the milk from the butter. Sway the churn back and forth gently, and draw off and put in more water until it runs off clear. Spread the butter evenly over the bottom of the churn, and with a paddle cut it up fine. Sprinkle with fine dairy-salt, according to taste of customers. One dealer

wants an ounce to the pound; less than this suits most people. Then cut it in sections, placing one on the other; then chop fine again, until the salt is thoroughly distributed. Then pat and work gently into a long roll. Cut into pound sections, and print. Chopping will not break the grain like working. Butter treated thus is firm and yellow, with no streaks, needs no working over, and when broken apart shows the fine golden grain and has the sweet, rich butter flavor so highly appreciated by customers.

S. NAOMI WOLCOTT.

IMPROVED HARROWING.

With the advanced age of industry, inventions, manufactures, sciences, and the consequent cheaper mode of production of almost everything, the farmer is naturally put to his wit's end to bring the products of his labor to the market in the best possible shape and at the same time reduce the cost of production so that there will be a margin of profit. In order to do this he will have to farm in a great measure with his head. True, machinery of every description and for every possible use can be purchased. Yet if a man don't hitch brains on one side of the tongue, he is like a steamship in the midst of the ocean fully equipped with the latest improved electric appliances and triple expansion engines connected to three propellers, but without a rudder.

The age of guesswork-sort of good, bad and indifferent farming is fast becoming a thing of the past, being superseded by more advanced ideas and methods. We must adapt ourselves to the means. In order to obtain the best results from land, it must be in a fair state of fertility. However, fair returns may be had from land that is thin by deep, thorough cultivation and pulverizing the surface. There is no use trying to raise a crop in clods, for one half the fertility available is locked up in them.

The old wood-frame harrow with one and one fourth inch or one and one half inch teeth did very good work, but it always left deep furrows after each tooth, and the clods were unbroken. If the land was hilly, these formed natural waterways which would wash two or three inches deep. To obviate this I purchased a sixty-tooth steel-frame harrow, with small teeth which are adjustable. This, by slanting the teeth back a little, cut and smashed the clods and left the ground in very good shape, except myriads of small clods and particles of crust formed by the last rain.

To experiment a little, I put a four by four inch oak stick ten feet long, the width of the harrow, close up behind, with the edge down, fastening it with common fencing-wire just so it would vibrate. I next took the eveners off the binder and attached three horses. This smashed the remaining clods and left the ground as fine as the garden, made it smooth, filling up all hoof-marks and low places. This not only saved the time of running over again with the plank-smoother or the roller, but it left the ground free from harrow-marks.

W. JAY BEIGHLE.

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

FROM FLORIDA.—Having been a resident of South Florida for fourteen years, I write these lines. A knowledge of the true situation of affairs may be a blessing to some who are seeking a milder climate. We have depended too much on the orange for a money-crop. It was a very deceptive crop and was practically ruined three winters ago by a blizzard. But no country can long be held down which has good health and a mild climate, and which is the easiest place in the world to make the actual necessities of life. But a sure-money crop is what we have long needed; this we seem to have in tobacco. I saw tobacco growing here on unfertilized land that measured ten and one half feet, and this crop sold last February at \$1.50 to \$1.75 a pound. Along the eastern side of Citrus county there is a chain of lakes twenty-five miles long, and amid these lakes there are thousands of acres of just such land that can be bought for almost a song. Abundant orange groves could be turned into tobacco-farms and bonanzas made of them. I have seen sixty-five pounds of sweet potatoes dug from a single volunteer sprout. I am not a real-estate agent—own less than one hundred acres of land—but it would give me the greatest joy to see this fair peninsula what it should be—filled with good people.

Inverness, Fla.

J. V. S.

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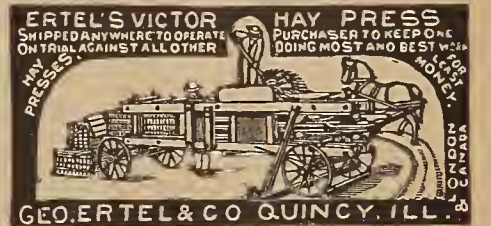
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Our Farm.

NOTES FOR COUNTRY HOMES.

ANY one who can give us a thoroughly hardy peach, able to endure the climate of the whole apple belt, will not only confer a great blessing on others, but reap a fortune for himself. I am sorry to say that neither Crosby nor Fitzgerald carried its buds through the rather mild winter of 1897 with safety. Yet I am sure that this desideratum is possible, because I have had a peach, accidentally sent me in a lot of others, which proved to be well worthy of propagation. Unfortunately, the winter of 1895 killed it before I had budded it into a row of seedlings prepared to receive it.

Still it is possible with little trouble to grow peaches enough for family use in pots and boxes. In my coldhouse I had a half dozen trees in full bloom March 15th. These are kept under glass during the winter, and they remain there through the summer, or are set outside after all danger of freezing is passed. A good plan is to grow them espalier against the back wall of a cold greenhouse. I do not find that boxes set in a damp cellar through the winter come out as well in the spring. Without a greenhouse I would keep them through the winter in a light chamber or other house-room. It is only necessary to keep the temperature from falling more than three or four degrees below zero.

Mr. P. J. Berckmans, of Georgia, has sent out a new peach which he calls the Everbearing. The tree seems to have the habit of carrying blossoms and fruit at the same time, much like an orange. This will not adapt it to northern climates, but will make it a very useful peach for growing in boxes. Such trees do not need to be over three to five feet in height. This new peach is a freestone, three and one half inches long by three inches broad. The flesh is white, very juicy and of fine flavor. Probably it is an acquisition for special uses.

Johnson and Stokes sent out last year a vineless sweet potato. I am not yet sure that these potatoes will be of much value on our clay soils; but I am inclined to think we can grow them in our gardens for home use whenever we have well-tilled soil. It will be easy to protect a few bushes from late frosts. Owing to their bushy growth they need to be set pretty close, much like Irish potatoes, in a trench. They are said to yield from four hundred to six hundred bushels to the acre. They are also said to keep nearly as well as Irish potatoes, while they mature in one hundred days after planting.

The New York agricultural experiment station cautions those who intend to raise beets for sugar against the tendency to take exceptional yields as representing the average. It also indicates that capital is likely to be placed unwisely in the erection of factories. "Beet-sugar manufacture should be entered upon with great caution, and only after exhaustive study of the problems involved. Farmers should be cautious about taking stock in factories, unless the men who control the enterprises are personally known and trusted." These are words to be weighed carefully by any man who proposes to enter upon any entirely new enterprise in the way of production.

The Vermont experiment station warns growers of plums that many varieties are uncertain of self-pollinization. As a rule, plums do better when grown close together. The different varieties should also be intermixed. This is especially true of our native plums. One or two of the earlier varieties of European plums, like the Magnum Benuin, will be benefited by planting with the Japanese sorts. The Wild Goose plum is a good sample of American native plums that fail altogether, unless cross-fertilized. E. P. POWELL.

"I am busy farming, so can't get any time to canvass except on rainy days. Was out part of three days this week, and sold 13 Peerless Atlas. The order is inclosed. It is a wonderful seller, and FARM AND FIRESIDE is good; people like both it and the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION first-rate. I am going to give this business all the time possible."—T. A. Stewart, Princeton, Mo.

THE POULTRY YARD.

Conducted by P. H. Jacobs, Hammonton, New Jersey.

DISEASE AND SUMMER FEEDING.

Many diseases are due to the farmer feeding his fowls in summer when they do not need it, instead of allowing them to procure their food by exercise and of such variety as can be had in the fields. It is the inclination to assist the hens that causes diseases in summer. The belief that the more feed given the larger the number of eggs has done much to retard production, for really one of the quickest methods of putting an end to egg-production is to feed heavily at a period of the year when the bodily demands of the fowl are least. Every ounce of food consumed and digested that is not utilized in producing eggs is stored on the body as fat, and the packing of the crop with food faster than it can be passed into the gizzard not only induces fermentation in the crop, but also impairs digestion by overtaxing the capacities of the fowl and thus leads to bowel disease. It is correct to supply food when it is lacking, but this should be done intelligently, as it is difficult to know when a hen has had enough. How much to feed a flock has not yet been discovered as a fact, because no two hens are alike or eat the same quantity or kind. A single hen often varies her diet in quantity, eating more today than yesterday, and refusing food one day that she had readily accepted previously. The only way to be sure is to feed less than to risk giving too much. In order to learn how to do this I will state (as has been done before) that the proper mode is to weigh a certain amount of food, say two pounds, and let the hens eat until the last one walks away satisfied. Then weigh the food that was uneaten. The difference will be the quantity eaten by the hens when allowed all that they can consume at one meal. Now, as it is not advisable to give the hens all they can eat, let us suppose that the hens ate twenty ounces. Then give them only one half as much (ten ounces) in the morning, nothing at noon, and a full meal (twenty ounces) at night. Such is the plan which should be adopted for the winter season. In summer they can pick much of their food, and should have a meal only at night, but not a full one, giving them the ten ounces at night, as it will be amply sufficient.

THE PREFERENCE OF BREEDS.

Regarding the laying qualities of the breeds the climate has something to do with it. It is safe to claim that not one Leghorn hen in a thousand has laid two hundred eggs in a year, and but few exceed one hundred and fifty eggs. A fair profit can be made in poultry by judicious management, but it is wrong to make persons believe they can become suddenly rich at the business, or that it is something that any body can engage in successfully. The poultryman, the breed, the crops, the runs, the feed, the climate and other factors must be considered. If it was known which breed was the best, and the fact made conclusive, there would be but one breed, as everybody would prefer that breed. Those who select a clean-leg fowl, hardy, with barred plumage, medium size, active, with a single comb, excellent for market or laying, and that can forage well, would prefer the Plymouth Rock; but there are those who would prefer a bird that bears confinement well, can be kept in with a fence four feet high, has a comb so small that it escapes the frost, has a large carcass and lays well in the winter season because it is heavily protected with plenty of feathers and is not partial to wide areas for foraging, and will select the Light Brahmas. Which is better depends on the object one has in view.

SECURING CUSTOMERS.

Most of the successful dealers or poultrymen sell direct to regular customers from the stalls, but some supply houses (private) daily. They keep their own hens, do not use rotten eggs for nest-eggs, and will not buy from others unless they have a partial supervision over the yards from which they buy. Eggs must be collected every day. One bad egg in a dozen is fatal to them. It takes time to build up such a trade, as dealers must first gain the confidence of their customers. When the customers find that they can depend on the poultrymen to supply strictly fresh

eggs, they are willing to pay well. Certain poultrymen have been known to get sixty cents a dozen when the regular price was only twenty cents. Some persons have a stamp, but customers do not like a stamped egg. Any honest, truthful man can do the same thing, and in nearly any town or city, but he must have patience. Customers may not know him, and it takes time, but it pays in the end. If you expect to drive around, buy up eggs to sell and from all quarters, you will not do well to try; remember that a single stale egg breaks up the good-will of a customer.

AN ESTIMATE ON PROFITS.

Everything depends on the shelter, the foraging and general surroundings and conditions. Some people feed entirely too much of one kind of food, and half of the farmers allow lice to reap the most profit; hence it is no wonder that some do not make poultry pay. From a careful estimate of the amount of food required to keep one hundred and fifty hens, mixed breeds, for one year, the amount would be, if the fowls are fed regularly, watered and kept comfortable, about as follows: Six bushels corn, six bushels wheat, six bushels oats, one thousand pounds corn-meal, one thousand pounds white clover hay, three hundred pounds linseed-meal, three hundred pounds wheat bran, two hundred and twenty-five pounds meat scrap, two hundred pounds bone-meal and twenty-five bushels roots, cooked. Now as to profits. Where grain is cheap eggs are usually cheap; but with this ration of food there ought to be from one dollar to one dollar and a half profit for each hen, with proper attention to them and marketing eggs at the proper time. But as hens differ in the amounts of food eaten by them, estimates are not reliable, observation being only the guide.

THE PROPER FEEDING OF FOWLS.

The care of fowls means business every day in the year, but it is not unlike any other business, in which one would succeed. The buildings should be made of matched lumber, and cleaned, painted and whitewashed several times a year. Road-dust, lime, tobacco-stems, sulphur and forest-leaves may be used for a litter and for a nest. The food, a large part, some of which may be raised on the land, may consist of clover hay, cut fine, all of the grains, cracked or ground wheat, oats, corn, rye and buckwheat; also vegetables, onions, potatoes, cabbage, beets, mangels, meat, bones, shells and gravel, the latter being crushed; also skimmed milk in limited quantities, with an abundance of fresh water. The above foods are furnished in quantities, as the judgment of the poultryman directs.

WASHING THE POULTRY-HOUSE.

The sprayer permits of giving the poultry-house a thorough scrubbing occasionally. It is done on a warm, clear day, thoroughly spraying the walls and floor with water, using an old broom on the floor to loosen the dirt, and finally drenching with the sprayer, first removing the nests. After this is done leave the door and windows open and let the work be performed early in the morning, but not in winter, when the temperature of the atmosphere is below forty degrees. In summer it should be done as often as once a week.

COLOR OF THE YOLK.

There is nothing in the color of the yolk to indicate the quality. The proportion of coloring matter in an egg is very small, and the color of the yolk is deepened in proportion to the coloring matter of the food. In the summer, when the hen secures a greater variety, there will be more coloring matter in the food, especially from the several grasses. In winter, when dry food is used, the coloring matter is not so abundant. In proof of this, feed a few cooked carrots to the hens, and the yolk will have a deeper color, but it will not necessarily be better in quality.

FORCING CHICKS.

If chicks have leg weakness and move on their knees, but have good appetites, the difficulty is due to rapid growth. Mostly cockerels have it, and they usually recover. Feed ground green bone. When chicks stagger and are weak, with feathers rough, and sometimes have bowel disease, it is due to lack of heat or too much hot-

tom heat in the brooder, as well as to too rapid feathering. Feed often, giving fine ground green bone and chopped meat with the ration, and keep both the brooder-house and the brooder warm.

TURKEY-HENS.

If you have carefully reserved your turkey-hens you will know which of them lay the largest number of eggs and which are the better mothers. Many farmers sacrifice their best hens because they are small, so as to increase the size of the birds in the flock; but it is better to keep a good and tried hen than to lose her services. The females should be retained for their qualities as mothers, as it is better to raise the young turkeys than to sacrifice them in the endeavor to gain some other point.

INQUIRIES ANSWERED.

Turkeys.—J. J. Jacob, Iowa, writes: "Which of the breeds of turkeys is considered the hardiest?"

REPLY:—The best-known breeds are the Bronze and White Holland. They do not differ in hardiness.

Ground Bone.—A. F. S., Wayne City, Ill., writes: "What is the usual allowance of ground bone for a dozen hens—not cut green bone?"

REPLY:—Use the coarse kind and scatter it over the runs; the hens will eat only as much as they desire.

Dying in the Shells.—A. A., Chatbam, Ont., writes: "What is the cause of chicks dying in the shells during hatching?"

REPLY:—It may be due to too much moisture in incubators or lack of duty by hens, but the principal cause is usually the eggs, which may be from inbred or weak stock or from fat hens.

Poultry-house.—J. S. C., Teasdale, Utah, writes: "How large should a house be to hold one hundred hens, and how many windows?"

REPLY:—A house for one hundred fowls should be at least twelve by sixty feet, divided into three apartments, each twelve by twenty feet, dividing the flock into three families. Three large windows should be sufficient.

Incubators in Summer.—M. G. R., Camden, Del., writes: "Will it pay to procure and operate an incubator in summer? Will not the prices be low before the chicks go to market?"

REPLY:—The summer season is the best during which to operate and learn, as eggs are then cheaper, less warmth is required to be provided, and there is a greater variety of food. By the fall of the year experience will have been gained. Chicks bring good prices as late as October.

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Queries.

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Questions from regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE, and relating to matters of general interest, will be answered in these columns free of charge. Querists desiring immediate replies, or asking information upon matters of personal interest only, should inclose stamps for return postage. The full name and post-office address of the inquirer should accompany each query, in order that we may answer by mail if necessary. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Queries should not be written on paper containing matters of business, and should be written on one side of the paper only.

Taking Up Tulips.—J. E. S., Beemer, Neb., writes: "When shall I take up tulips after they are done blooming?"

REPLY:—As soon as the stems turn yellow and the leaves begin to dry take up the bulbs and put them in a cool, dry place. When dry, clean off the earth and old skin, and put them in paper bags, ready for planting out in October.

Bordeaux Mixture.—E. D. S., Kirk, N. Y. Dissolve six pounds of copper sulphate in a wooden or earthen vessel. In another tub or vessel slake four pounds of fresh lime; add enough water to reduce it to the consistency of thick whitewash. Pour this slowly into the copper sulphate solution, straining through a coarse gunny-sack. Dilute to forty-five gallons before applying. Add one fourth of a pound of Paris green to make a combined insecticide and fungicide.

Johnson Grass.—N. M. P., Wichita, Kan. Johnson grass is a coarse perennial with large root-stocks penetrating the ground in every direction. From each joint of these creeping root-stocks come up stems three to six or more feet in height. This grass is very difficult to eradicate, and has, therefore, been condemned. It stands heat and drought well, and may be useful where better grasses do not thrive. Write to your experiment station at Manhattan for information about tests of this grass in Kansas. It may be propagated by pieces of the root-stocks or by seeds planted in the spring.

Applying Paris Green.—J. K., Mary's Home, Mo., writes: "I will give a plan which I tried last season with complete success. The potato-bugs had stolen a march and were among the potatoes by thousands before their presence was suspected. The Paris green was mixed with flour. I cannot give the exact proportions, but take plenty of flour and very little Paris green, just enough to give a faint tinge of green to the flour, and mix thoroughly. Put the mixture in a tin box with a perforated lid, and dust the plants while the dew is on them. This is the plan I tried; while I was applying the mixture it was threatening rain, but it was a case of must, and I did the work thoroughly, expecting to have to do it all over after the rain. To my surprise, however, the one application was sufficient. After the rain the ground was covered with dead and dying bugs. Much of the mixture remained on the plants for weeks; in fact, the adhesive properties of the flour keeping the poison where it would do the most good."

VETERINARY.

Conducted by Dr. H. J. Detmers.

To regular subscribers of FARM AND FIRESIDE answers will be given through these columns free of charge. Where an immediate reply by mail is desired, the applicant should inclose a fee of one dollar, otherwise no attention will be paid to such a request. Inquiries should always contain the writer's full address. Queries must be received at least two weeks before the date of the issue in which the answer is expected. Subscribers may send their veterinary queries directly to Dr. H. J. DETMERS, 1315 Neil Avenue, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTE.—Parties who desire an answer to their inquiries in this column must give their name and address, not necessarily for publication, but for other good reasons. Anonymous inquiries are not answered under any circumstances.

Infectious Abortion.—J. D. G., Towner, Col. You will find your question answered under the above heading in some of the latest numbers of this paper.

So-called Sweeny.—C. H., Tallahassee, Fla. You will find your question answered in the answer given to B. F. H., Sumter, S. C., in the last number of this paper.

A Supernumerary Teat.—E. T., North Ontario, Cal. If your heifer, like many other cows, has a supernumerary teat, leave the latter severely alone when the heifer produces a calf, and it will not bother you.

Must be Suspected.—J. F. S., Portsmouth, Ohio. Although the symptoms you describe, a bad cough and constant decline in spite of good care, are not sufficient to condemn your cow as tuberculous, the same are sufficiently suspicious to make it advisable to subject her to the tuberculin test without much delay.

Throws Up Food and Drink.—J. S., Vanderbilt, Mich. It is undoubtedly the fish-bone (herring) that has become lodged somewhere in the stomach, and the morbid changes its presence and constant irritation has produced that causes all the trouble to your dog. The only remedy I can suggest would consist of a surgical operation with all aseptic precautions, after the exact location of the bone has first been ascertained by means of photography with the Roentgen rays.

A "Lump."—H. J. N., Whiting, Kan. If you will describe what you call "a lump" I may possibly be able to give you the desired advice, but I must first know what you mean. Until then you will probably do best by leaving the "lump" alone, which, you say, made its first appearance after the mule had recovered from its lameness.

Navicular Disease.—L. K., Elizabeth, Ill. You ask for the symptoms and a remedy of navicular disease, indeed, a great deal, much more than you are aware of. A remedy never has been and probably never will be found. As to the symptoms, I might give you a description, but do not see what good it will do you, unless you make yourself first familiar with the anatomy and the mechanism of the horse's foot, and with the morbid process producing the pathological changes in navicular disease.

A Chronic Cough.—H. W. S., Nokomis, Ill. According to the description which you give of the chronic cough of your mule it appears to be a case of so-called heaves, which, however, is not a distinct disease, but may be defined as any chronic, feverless and incurable difficulty of breathing. In a majority of cases, in our country at least, it is developed by feeding too much, or for too long a time, dusty timothy hay. In other cases, and probably in yours, too, it is brought on by a chronic catarrhal degeneration of the respiratory mucous membranes.

A Scrotal Hernia.—C., Minn. What you describe appears to be a scrotal hernia, which could have been easily removed by the person who castrated the colt, if he either had not been negligent or had understood his business. The hernia can yet be removed by a surgical operation, but the latter is much more difficult and also more dangerous in a gelding than in a colt or horse not yet castrated. If you desire to have the operation performed, I therefore advise you to intrust it only to a competent and responsible veterinarian. What was told you about the "water-seed" is a "story," and a pretty clumsy one, too.

A Sick Pig.—W. A. W., Boonville, N. Y. You only mention two symptoms shown by your sick sow-pig, none of which are very characteristic of any disease; namely, want of appetite, not having eaten anything for twenty-four hours, and inability or disinclination to stand, and an "appearance" of the hind quarters being inflamed to some distance above the hocks. Unless another statement of yours, namely, that the animal was fed on meal and shorts, equal quantities in weight, indicating by the lack of this food in phosphates, lime salts and nitrogenous compounds that the animal may be suffering from rachitis, throws some light upon the case, I cannot answer your question.

Difficulty in Drinking.—L. G. P., Bethpage, Tenn. If your horse, which you say had distemper a year ago, has difficulty in drinking, the best advice I can give you is to have the same examined by a veterinarian for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the difficulty, for it does not proceed from your communication whether the difficulty is in taking up the water or in swallowing it after it has been taken up. In the former case it very likely is a paralytic affection, and in the latter probably an existing obstacle, that causes the difficulty complained of. You will easily comprehend that the difficulty can be removed only by removing the cause, and that the latter, if at all, can be removed only after it has become known. Hence the necessity of an examination.

Fatal Diarrhea of Young Calves.—J. H. H., Claude, Texas. Diarrhea of new-born animals making its appearance within six to forty hours after birth will exceedingly seldom, if ever, yield to any treatment applied to the young animal, but may be prevented by a thorough change in the diet and in the keeping of the cows. Keep your cows on a rather light diet for at least four to six weeks before calving; if the same are kept in a stable, keep the latter clean and well ventilated, and last, but not least, see to it that the new-born calf is allowed to suck its dam as often as it pleases, or at least that the same will not be obliged to subsist on milk too long shut up or heated and soured in the udder of the cow. If calves are a week old or older when becoming affected with diarrhea, something can be done by directly treating the calf, provided the causes also are removed; but nothing can be done with a calf less than two days old. If your cows receive too much rich food, or food difficult of digestion, a physic (one pound of sulphate of soda) given a few days before calving, may have a good effect.

Raising a Colt by Hand.—E. D., Colby, Wis. An orphan colt can be raised by hand in about the same way as a baby on cow's milk, diluted with water and sweetened with a little pure sugar as a substitute for the greater amount of milk-sugar contained in the mare's milk. During the first two weeks the fresh cow's milk should be diluted at least fifty per cent, and then, with the necessary amount of sugar added, be given milk warm from a bottle with a rubber nipple firmly attached to its neck. That the most scrupulous cleanliness must be preserved, and that the milk must be perfectly fresh and sweet, may not need any explanation. After

a week or two it will be possible to teach the colt to drink out of a vessel, and then the bottle and the nipple may be dispensed with. After two weeks the dilution can be gradually decreased, so that in about two months the fresh milk may be given undiluted. When about three or four months old the young animal will have learned to eat considerable quantities of solid food, and then the milk may again be diluted, so that in about five or six months it will be more water than milk. The first solid food offered to the young animal when old enough to eat and to digest it should be fine and sweet young grass and some bottled or steamed oats. To raise a colt successfully by hand involves a great deal of labor and attention, and one not willing or able to bestow both will do better not to undertake it.

A Wart (?)—D. P. J., Belleville, Kan. If the tumor on the hind leg of your colt presents on its surface a cauliflower-like appearance, and is constantly sore and bleeding, it is not what might be called a "wart," but of a rather malignant character; but there will not be much trouble in permanently removing the same if you will carefully follow my directions. First have put up in a drug-store the following: Arsenious acid, two drams; caustic potash, one dram; powdered gum acacia, two drams, and distilled water, four drams; let the druggist mix these thoroughly, put the mixture in a salt-mouthed vial, and label it "poison." To apply it, first free the tumor from all scabs and crusts, then make a wooden spatulum of such width that it can be readily introduced into your salt-mouthed vial, dip it into the vial and smear the adhering mixture over the surface of the tumor, but nowhere else; repeat this until the whole surface of the tumor is coated with as thick a layer as will adhere without dripping off; this done, cover the whole tumor with a tuft of absorbent cotton, and then for about six hours tie the colt in such a way that it cannot reach the foot or leg with its mouth. Be careful not to get the poisonous mixture in contact with your hands or with anything but the tumor. If the application has been well made, the tumor will soon shrivel, become hard, and finally drop off. If a mistake has been made, or if the tumor is very large, only a portion of the same will be removed and a second application will be necessary; but for that a fresh mixture must be prepared. Whatever is left or not used at the first application must be at once destroyed.

Symptoms of Tuberculosis.—R. H. H., Glen, Md. Tuberculosis (in cattle) is an insidious, slowly developing disease, in which the morbid process, though having its principal seat most frequently in the respiratory organs, lung tissue in particular (pulmonary tuberculosis), and in the serous membranes of the abdominal and thoracic cavities (pearly tuberculosis), almost invariably more or less affects glandular tissues, and can have its seat or locate in almost any part of the body, even in the bones. The symptoms, therefore, are also slowly developing, variable and numerous, so that a complete description of all of them would necessarily make a lengthy treatise. Besides this, they not only vary in different animals, according to the parts and organs affected, but they also include none, at any rate not in the earlier stages of the disease, which are sufficiently constant and characteristic and cannot be produced by other morbid processes to be of sufficient diagnostic value to enable any one not thoroughly familiar with all the phases and features of the disease to base upon them a reliable diagnosis. The only symptoms upon which a reliable diagnosis can be based are those revealed in rather advanced stages by auscultation and percussion, and to ascertain these requires an experienced veterinarian. Where these latter symptoms are yet insufficiently developed even a good veterinarian would hesitate to make a diagnosis unless he knows that tuberculosis is existing in the herd, and unless he is at the same time familiar with all the surrounding circumstances and with the history of the animal in question. Therefore a recital of all the possible symptoms can do no good, is apt to mislead and is unnecessary, because by applying the tuberculin test it can be ascertained with almost absolute certainty whether a suspected animal (cow) is tuberculous or not. We must suspect any milk-cow or heifer that has more or less of a hacking cough, shows more or less difficulty of respiration, especially after muscular exercise, and constantly declines in spite of good food and good care without presenting any symptoms of any acute febrile disease. This is the more the case if the animal in question is narrow-chested and belongs to a dairy breed.

Sick Dogs.—W. H. J., Matanzas, Fla. From your description it becomes more than probable that your dogs are suffering and dying respectively from harboring the tapeworms known as *Taenia serrata*, the cystworms of which, *Cysticercus pisiformis*, are frequent in the lungs, liver, serous membranes, etc., of hares and rabbits, but especially in those known as jack-rabbits. It will, however, be very easy for you to arrive at a definite diagnosis if you will only watch the suspected dogs and see whether or not they pass any proglottides or tapeworm-joints. The tapeworm itself grows to a length of from 500 to even 1,000 millimeters, or from twenty to

as much as almost forty inches (the latter appears to be the extreme length but seldom met with). The widest proglottides or joints, when ripe, are about eight to ten millimeters (one third to two fifths of an inch) long and four to five millimeters (one sixth to one fifth of an inch) wide. The anterior border is always shorter than the posterior one, so that several cohering proglottides or joints present a saw-like appearance, hence the name "serrata." You can also obtain absolute certainty of diagnosis if a dog dies and you make a post-mortem examination, particularly of the contents of the intestines. The head of *Taenia serrata* is almost globular or somewhat quadraangular and comparatively large; the neck is from one twelfth to one eighth of an inch long; the first joints are very short, while those about an inch behind the head are almost square, and the posterior, or ripe ones, when ready to pass off, as above described. Another way to arrive at a diagnosis is to dissect a rabbit. The cyst-worm, sometimes in large numbers in the liver (as many as two hundred have been found in the liver and adjoining tissues), is sometimes only one fourth of an inch, often, however, from one third to one half of an inch long, one sixth to one fourth of an inch wide, posteriorly terminating in a conical point, sometimes but not often posteriorly rounded. The scolex (embryonal head), with its thin neck, is always found inverted into the cyst filled with serum, but can be pressed out of it. Sometimes several dead cysticerci are found inclosed in a common cyst, which then usually contains a thickish and malodorous fluid. In cotton-tail rabbits this cyst-worm does not appear to be as frequent as in the larger so-called jack-rabbits.

A Hole in Your Pocket.



The butter fat that is being lost in the ordinary process of dairying is worse than a hole in your pocket and through which your coin may escape. The best way in the world to stop the leak is to use a

SHARPLES SEPARATOR,

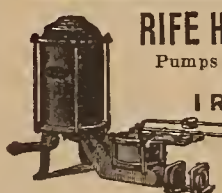
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A toy, with dainty works like any watch;
A working, weaving basketful of tricks—
Eccentric, cam and lever, cog and notch.
She's a dashing, lashing, tumbling shell of steel,
A headstrong, kicking, nervous, plunging beast—
A long, lean ocean liner—trimmed down small;
A bucking bronco harnessed for the East.
She can rear and toss and roll
Your body from your soul,
And she's most unpleasant wet—to say the least!

But see her slip in; snaking down, at night,
All a-tremble, deadly, silent—Satan-sly.
Watch her gather for the rusb, and catch her breath!
See her dodge the wakeful cruiser's sweeping eye.
Hear the humming! Hear her coming, coming fast!
(That's the sound might make men wish they were
at home—
Hear the rattling Maxim, barking rapid fire!)
See her loom out through the fog with bows afoam!
Then some will wish for land—
(They'd be sand-fleas in the sand;
Or yellow grubs reposing in the loam!)

She's a floating boiler crammed with fire and steam,
A dainty toy, with works just like a watch;
A weaving, working basketful of tricks—
A pent volcano and stoppered at top notch.
She is Death and swift Destruction in a case
(Not the Unseen, but the Awful—plain in sight),
The Dread that must be halted when afar;
She's a concentrated, fragile form of Might!
She's a darling, vicious thing
With a rending, deadly sting—
And she asks no odds nor quarter in the fight!
—McClure's Magazine.

A TRUE KNIGHT OF LABOR

BY KATE TANNATT WOODS.

Author of "A Fair Maid of Marblehead," "The Wooing of Grandmother Grey," "Hidden for Years," "The Minister's Secret," "Hester Hephworth," "Sophia Blount, Spinster," "Six Little Rebels," "Dr. Dick," "Mopsy," Etc., Etc.

CHAPTER XIII.

MEG'S LETTER.

FOR the first time since he had been engaged at the works Joe delegated his duty to another. He had something on his mind which must be attended to. Of one thing he was sure. Meg was safely housed and her life was not in danger. The feeble-minded boy possessed the secretive cunning usual with most of his class. He was for some reason proud of the "lesson papers" which he had stolen from Meg's room, and all Joe's coaxing would not induce him to part with more than one. He seemed to think that it was his duty to keep them for the little lady, and having found her "dear Joe," the boy was too happy and proud of his success to give away what belonged to her.

When the boy told in his broken way of the mother who would cry if he did not go back to the woods, Joe determined to risk something for the sake of seeing the lad far beyond the rough surroundings he had already suffered from. He obtained permission to place his duties in the hands of another foreman, for a few hours only, and went out, leading the boy by the hand. They walked rapidly until the settlement was left far behind, the boy chattering all the time, telling in his rambling way much that Joe desired to know. Suddenly a consciousness that he must not be seen with a stranger came over him, and he turned to his new friend with real grief in his tones.

"Paul likes Joe, likes Joe, but he must go, go now; the mother will flog Paul."

"No one shall harm Paul where I am," said Joe. "I am his friend."

"Paul's friend, and the little lady's," said the boy.

"You must come again, Paul; come and see me, but not at the works."

The boy looked confused.

"Not where the big fires burn; come to my room where I sleep, and you shall see more of the little lady's writing, but you must not tell any one."

"No; Joe's friend; no one, not the mother?" "Not even the mother, now; but you may put a letter on the little lady's book for her. Will you, Paul?"

He understood that this meant an adventure, and it pleased him.

He laughed merrily. "Up the long pole, over the fence, and in with the wind at the window. Cripple get dinner, little lady get dinner, and hop, skip, the letter goes."

"That is it, Paul, and you must not fall or get hurt climbing up the porch. I should be sorry to have you get hurt."

"Joe sorry, Paul sorry, the mother cry."

"Be good to the mother, Paul; don't make her cry."

"No; Hate man make her cry; Paul laugh, laugh, and the mother laugh, too."

"Who is the Hate man, Paul?"

The boy's eyes flashed. Joe could not see

his eyes in the darkness, but he felt the tremble of his hand, and the bitterness of his tone was unmistakable, as he repeated:

"Bad Hate man, bad. Paul want's Joe's letter."

They had now traveled by a circuitous way some distance into the wood and half way up a steep hillside. They sat down upon a fallen tree, at Joe's request, and he was about to light the lantern which he had brought with him from the works when the boy seized his hand, and exclaimed, in a voice of terror. "No, no; the Hate man will find Paul; no light, no light."

"Then I must write in the dark, my boy; however, I can do it." He wrote a few brief lines and inclosed them in an envelop which had been addressed to him by his lawyer. He folded down the corners and gave it to Paul.

"Now, Paul," he said, very slowly, "do just as you said; put this on the little lady's book, and then we will watch; tell no one, not one, my boy, if you want me to be your friend."

"Not one," repeated the boy, as he took the envelop and the half dollar which Joe put into his hand. "Not one, not one," said Paul, and he at once started to run like a deer.

"Poor lad, poor lad; his feeble wit has done more for us than all our schemes. I would follow him if I dared. As Jasper says, patience is the thing required now. We must wait until we learn the whole of that wretched villain's plot, and then move."

Accustomed as Joe was to hunting and the movements of the lumberers in the woods, he had carefully marked his way by bits of paper. Now that the boy was out of sight, he lighted his lantern and followed his own trail back to the settlement. He did more

ashamed of the tears which came to his eyes as he read it. It was evidently the child's chief happiness to write to him of the thought in her heart, although she was not allowed to send them to him. It read as follows:

"DEAR, DEAR UNCLE JOE:—My kind nurse is sewing, and I am doing a writing-lesson. The house is pretty and no one in it but Mrs. Golden and me and the cook. The cook does not come up-stairs, and Mrs. Golden says the family will not let me see any one until I am strong. Who is the family? I only know you, and the one who gave me to you, and the pretty lady who kissed me, and cried, and called me 'Peggy darling.'"

"The bad dreams come sometimes, but I do as you say, and pray every morning and night. Once I saw the bad woman who hurt me so. She got into the house and opened the door and looked at me when nurse took a nap. Nurse says she will never come again. I asked nurse to let me send you a letter, but she says, 'My poor dear, we are both prisoners.'"

"Dear Uncle Joe, come to me. I love you, and cry for you when nurse is not looking. I want to say lessons, and go out of doors, and oh, I want to see you so bad. Sometimes I think that you sent me here because I was bad and cried about going to the works, but I have told nurse about you, and she says she wishes she knew you. Dear Uncle Joe, please tell me who 'the family' is, and why I cannot go out and play like the Maloney children. Come to me, come to me, for I want you. Your loving MEG."

CHAPTER XIV.

A WOMAN JOURNALIST.

"I simply must have a bright woman to help me out," said Joe.

"I don't believe that you can get one to take the risk," said Mr. Crossman.

"I do," said Captain Jasper. "Joe is right; and no one can come to harm with all of us behind her."

some one to help us in New York; we must work there, you see."

"Wire him at once for the name of the best journalist in the city for some special work," said Captain Jasper; "that will put us right in no time."

The message was sent, and, fortunately, Benson happened to be in the office. The answer came back speedily.

"Jack Hurd is your man. Bluff, independent, sharp and warranted to wear."

"Sure enough; any of us might have thought of Jack Hurd, the breeziest and jolliest fellow alive," said Captain Jasper.

"Yes, and my special admiration at a dinner," said Crossman. "Hold on, Joe, let me send the message for you; he is on the wing so much that you might not strike him after all."

Jack Hurd was not found until late in the evening, and then his hearty answer gave Joe hope. He started at once on the night express and was in Jack Hurd's office before nine o'clock the next morning.

It did not take long to tell the story, and even less for the brainy journalist to grasp the situation.

"You are correct, young man; the thing we want to do is to send a bright woman into that hole, and I know the girl who can do it, if she will; she is bright, plucky and almost alone in the world."

"She will benefit mankind as well as help us," said Joe; "but not one word of this must be known until we are ready to strike our blow."

"That goes without saying. Now for our girl. She was doing a theater last night and will not get out early. I will send for her."

He rang for a messenger-boy, and sent him away with a brief note.

"She'll soon be here, I'll wager; the girl has to make her way and she is bound to be a journalist. Now tell me how you were fortunate enough to find the particular cage where your friend is confined?"

"By the merest accident," said Joe.

"I don't believe in accidents," said Mr. Hurd.

"I cannot say that I do," said Joe; "it is a form of speech we use, however. For the present I am employed in 'The Great Bubble Works.'"

"The deuce you are. What are you doing there? Down on your luck?"

He looked at the card, which was still before him, with the simple inscription of "Joseph Rivington."

"Why, aren't you one of the Rivingtons of New York?"

"Yes," said Joe, with a smile. "I am in there for a certain purpose which may seem absurd to you, and we will not talk about it; but being there, I am doing what I can to make some of those laborers more comfortable. Capital can always find its champions, and labor has not been wisely led in many cases; however, my social and scientific studies can go on side by side."

"While you work like a Mick, eh?"

"Never mind me," said Joe. "Among our men there was a poor Swede who was badly injured; he has been laid up for months now, and the other day he was feeling poorly and wanted to see me about leaving his few belongings to his sweetheart, who has been in this country longer than he has, but, unfortunately, went over for a visit to her native land just three days before this man was hurt. We got to talking, and I found out that his Josephine had been a nurse in a private hospital; then my ears were opened, and I further learned that our much-abused friend had been her charge until quite recently. The girl was so interested in her patient that she talked of her constantly, and repeatedly told her lover that her dear lady was perfectly sane and only kept there for family reasons in order to get her money. The girl was called quite suddenly to Sweden by the death of an aunt who left her a little money, and before she went she gave her lover a silver fruit-knife which her mistress had presented to her; she also said that the name on the knife was the true name of her poor, distressed lady, while the name she was known by there was 'Unwin.' The man promised to try and find some one of that name, but had never had a chance to do so. You can imagine my feelings when he insisted on giving me the knife and asked me to find the lady's friends, and when I opened it to see upon the blade the name of my almost sister, the only sister of the woman I should have married had she lived."

"I tell you," said Jack Hurd, with a strong word not used in polite society, "that it only proves my assertion without fiction. There isn't a man or woman on this earth who can, in the wildest flights of their imagination, create anything as wonderful, as tragic and as pathetic as I have seen in the course of my life. Your experience proves it. The experience of any one who really sees life and knows anything must prove it; and I tell you, Rivington, that I can duplicate this good woman's case, and worse than that. I will help you, my man, if it takes my last dollar. When the people of this country wake up to the abominations practised in so-called 'asylums,' there will be a shaking of dry bones. Of course, we have some regular, legitimate and truly respectable 'retreats,' properly managed by men of honor, but there is no sense in shutting our eyes to the damnable



HE FOLDED DOWN THE CORNERS AND GAVE IT TO PAUL.

than this; for he made certain marks on trees and shrubs which might easily guide him should he wish to see the paths by daylight.

His adventure of the night had made him forget fatigue and even food. He had lost many hours of rest since little Meg was stolen; and he resolved to make up some of it on Sunday. He would not go down to dinner with Carroll, but sleep instead, and pay his respects to Mrs. Carroll in the evening. Crossman and Captain Jasper would be sure to get down to business on Saturday afternoon. He would keep his good news until then, and get home to rest now.

It was Joe's intention to get into the house on his return without seeing any one, as he wanted time to think over his affairs before he encountered his garrulous landlady; but that good woman was already astir in more ways than one, for she stood near the pantry window making biscuits.

"Ah, Mister Joe, its fine luck; you have come in time for a good breakfast; since the child went you have neither eaten nor slept regular."

"I intend to take a good solid sleep, Mrs. Maloney, and I would like to be called at two o'clock."

"Then you shall have a good, solid breakfast to sleep on before the others get in, Mr. Joe."

Once in his room Joe opened the sheet of paper which Paul had permitted him to keep. It was written all over like a lesson the child had learned by heart, and Joe was not

"I tell you, gentlemen," said Joe, earnestly, "that I cannot sleep or rest until something is done for that poor woman. Once get her, and we can crush the creature who is, alas for her, her so-called legal protector."

"Where shall we find the young woman ready to sacrifice herself?" asked Mr. Crossman.

"Among the journalists," answered Joe. "They are fearless, quick-witted, brave and, I think, willing to aid in the rescue of a sister woman."

"Money, Joe; don't forget that; add money to your fame and you may get her," said the lawyer.

"But there is neither honor nor fame here; it cannot get into the papers, it must not; and all the young woman can do is to obey our instructions and possibly suffer for our benefit. I not only think of the information we will get to aid us in crushing that rascal, but the comfort it will be to poor Florence to know that we are working for her."

"Benson might help you," said Carroll, who had been admitted to the conference. "He is on the best and most progressive paper in Boston, and he knows all the journalists."

"Don't get hold of any leaky young reporter, gentlemen," said Mr. Crossman. "There is no one in the country respects the newspapers more than I do, but I do object to a 'scoop' or a 'story' that interferes with one's private affairs."

"Benson is a gentleman," said Joe, "and an all-around good fellow; he might name

cases which have been made known and the many more which should be. Here comes the little lady."

"Miss Perkins; Mr. Rivington."

Joe saw before him a bright, girlish figure, dressed in the prevailing style. Her bright eyes and fair complexion made her a picture worth looking at without any further knowledge of her.

"Sit down, Molly," said Jack Hurd; "we have a story to tell you, and a big contract on hand if you will take it. Rivington, you had better tell her how it is."

Joe grew more and more earnest as the sad tale went on, and when he had concluded with a liberal offer of money if Miss Perkins would establish communication between the injured woman and her friends, the girl's eyes were full of tears. She brushed them hurriedly away, and said, turning to Jack Hurd, "I would like to do it if I never had a penny."

"That's right, Molly, and we will never let harm come to you; be sure of that. I will look up the certificates and witnesses and all that, and you may arrange the rest with Rivington."

The official red tape being duly attended to, Miss Perkins, who now assumed the name of Marion Penhurst, was properly entered at the private retreat of Doctor Percy Hamilton, for ladies only. She was registered as mildly insane; her friends were very wealthy, but now traveling abroad, and her devoted uncle wished to have her perfectly cured before their return. It was important to have her meet only the most refined and cultivated people, and as she amused herself with sketching and painting, it would be well to indulge her in it, especially if she could have some companionship in her work to keep her from thinking too much of the lover she had recently lost. Her uncle, a venerable-looking old man, would like to see her at least twice each week.

Wealthy patients in private institutions are always welcome, and Miss Marion was soon shown her own parlor and bedroom. She played her part to perfection. Who could not, when a life was at stake?

CHAPTER XV.

A STRANGE POSTMAN.

When Paul reached home he was cold, wet and nearly exhausted. His mother was weeping bitterly. The poor lad could not understand her anxiety and felt that something troubled her. He had been out all night, and her dread lest he had in some way encountered her master had grown almost into a frenzy. Paul clung to her and kissed her, saying, in his pathetic way, "That she was his dear, dear, and must not cry."

"Paul is good; Joe says so. Paul is good; see, Joe gave him money for the mother. Joe is kind and holds Paul's hand."

"Oh, my dear boy, my poor hapless one, whom have you found? Where have you been? Tell me, darling, my precious boy."

"Paul walked and walked a long, long way, where the big fires burn and had men hurt Paul; but Joe came, ha, ha, Joe came, and he sent them away; and he fed Paul, and made him warm, and took his hand like the mother; good Joe, the mother must love Joe; Paul does."

"Dear heart, where did you find him?"

"A long, long way."

"Do not go away again, dearest; stay with me; your feet are wet and you are cold and I will give you warm milk."

It was strange to see them together. When others screamed and failed to make him hear she only moved her lips and he knew all that she wished him to know. He gave her the half dollar Joe had given him, but even his perturbed brain knew the sacredness of his word. He said nothing of the letter; indeed, he had carefully hidden it under the porch before coming in. His mother fed and warmed him and wrapped him in a long loose wrapper which she had waiting for him, and then he fell asleep, quite exhausted by his varied experiences. He looked up once as his eyes were closing to ask his mother "if the Hate man had been there," and when she said no he nestled down, muttering to himself, "that no one could hurt him now, for Joe was his friend."

"God bless him whoever he may be," said the woman, as she watched her boy. "God bless Joe, wherever he is; and curse any one who dares to harm my poor Paul."

The boy slept late the next morning, and Celeste smiled as she watched him, for only when he was sleeping near her was her troubled heart at rest. He did not waken until about noon, and then he seemed distressed and hurried out without eating all that his anxious mother begged him to.

"Do not go far, precious, this time," she said; "do not, if you love me."

"Paul will play with the snow-birds and come back," he answered. "Paul loves the mother." She went about her duties comforted, for he never left her long when he used those words. It was only when he went out without speaking that she was troubled; and yet she dared not restrain him. All the doctors she had seen had told her that. He saw his mother preparing the dinner for the rooms above, and though he never asked her questions, he noticed more than she dreamed. Going swiftly out of the rear door he hurried

to the front of the house and listened. When the roll of the waiter was made clear to him by a certain rumbling sensation which he alone understood, he knew the dinner was being served; and he climbed the large pillars of the porch with the quickness of a cat. He stole along the railing above until he reached the window which had frequently been opened for the air. It was closed. For a moment he was in despair and crept back among the branches of the vine which encircled the porch to think.

It sometimes seems that heaven sends especial powers to unfortunate children, powers which are more helpful to them than the slower reasoning to those more generously gifted. A sudden idea seized Paul. He had seen somewhere in his wanderings boys play tick-tack by tying something to a window where it might strike with the wind, if it were not moved by the hands. He chuckled with glee as he thought of it, and noticed that the wind was fresh and in the right quarter. He searched his pockets and found not one piece of string but many; he tied one about the letter and then moved slowly and carefully again to the window. He was quite safe; the two captives were now busily engaged in eating and talking; for it was part of Mrs. Golden's wisdom to entertain the child at the table with cheerful conversation in order to increase her poor appetite. It had been falling off for some time now, owing to the need of fresh air and exercise. The next time the doctor came Mrs. Golden determined to have a decided argument with him on the subject. Paul had no difficulty in securing his string to the window, for all his young life he had a peculiar fancy for picking up pins, and the front of his jacket was sure to hold several. When his collection he-

came too numerous his mother purchased them of him at a penny a dozen. It was one of the many notions of his disordered fancy. Another was to pick up and secrete all the bits of paper he might find with writing upon them. While he could read writing a little, he could not write himself, and every attempt to teach him resulted in a nervous attack. Without much trouble Paul secured the tick-tack which, much to his joy, waved back and forth with the wind. He crept back to the top of the porch and curled down among the wisteria branches with one eye peering out to watch for Meg.

It seemed a long, long time before she came; and then to the lad's almost frantic delight she saw the letter at once. She opened the window without calling Mrs. Golden, who was in the next room putting away the remnants of the dinner. Paul saw her face as the child read the beloved name, and although he could not hear her words, he saw her hug the letter to her heart, kiss it over and over, and at last open it. She read it again and again, the boy knew, for he could see the movements of her eyes upon the paper; then she came to the window which she had left open in her haste and looked carefully about. She could not see anything, but still she smiled and said, "Dear, dear, Uncle Joe."

The lad had heard those words so many times that he knew them by the motion of her lips. Often when his mother had thought him talking with the birds had he been hiding where he could see the little lady and "Capple." His instinct told him that his mother did not wish him to know of their presence in the house, and even in his wildest moments he never mentioned the little lady or her nurse. Paul could not see or hear

more, for Meg ran away into the next room to Mrs. Golden.

"Nurse, nurse," she said, "I have a letter, a true, real letter, from Uncle Joe; see it, read it; I am so glad, so glad!"

Mrs. Golden almost dropped the pretty china plate she had in her hand.

"My dear love, where did you get it?"

"At the window: come; see, just here, tied to a string. Dear nurse, do say that you are glad, do read it; he knows you, too; and oh, nurse, he is so good."

Before looking at the letter Mrs. Golden put her head out of the window and gazed in every direction.

No sign of life was visible, and a fresh breeze was blowing.

"The fairies brought it," said Meg. "I always love to think of fairies and Brownies, and perhaps a Brownie brought this."

"My dear," said Mrs. Golden, when she had read the lines, "God has answered my prayers at last."

"Read it aloud to me, dear nurse," said Meg. "I want to hear it over and over."

Mrs. Golden read:

"MY PRECIOUS PEGGY:—I am writing in the dark, and it may be hard for you to read. But I want to tell you to be good and patient, and above all to mind Mrs. Golden. Some day before very long you shall see your loving
UNCLE JOE."

Mrs. Golden was almost as pleased as the child. The mystery which surrounded her was hateful to her, and ever since she had overheard the conversation in the kitchen she had been anxious and watchful.

She had serious doubts about the "family" since she had detected the doctor in a number of falsehoods, and she was watching an

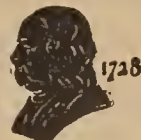
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opportunity to free herself from an embarrassing position without leaving the child to suffer. Meg had grown very dear to her, and for Allie's sake all children were sacred. While Meg danced about the room in glee Mrs. Golden held the soiled envelop in her hand and gazed at the address in one corner, printed in bold type:

CURTIS CROSSMAN,
Attorney-at-Law.
Box 1079 PHILADELPHIA, Pa.
(To be Continued.)

FOOD AND TEETH.

"It is a remarkable fact," said a prominent New York dentist recently, "that the teeth of the poor are stronger and generally last longer than those of the well-to-do classes. The reason for this is that what food the poor give their children is of a variety that goes to make bones of teeth. This food consists of the outside of all the grains of all cereal foods that contain the carbonate and phosphate of lime and traces of other earthy salts, all of which nourish the bony tissues and build up the frame. If we do not furnish to the teeth of the young that pabulum they require they cannot possibly be built up. It is the outside of corn, oats, wheat, barley and the like, or the bran, so called, that we sift away and feed to the swine, that the teeth require for their proper nourishment.

"The wisdom of man has proved his folly, shown in every succeeding generation of teeth, which become more fragile and weak. Our modern flouring-mills are working destruction upon the teeth of every man, woman and child who partakes of their fine bolted flour. They sift out the carbonates and the phosphates of lime in order that they may provide that fine white flour which is proving a white-washed sepulcher to teeth. Oatmeal is one of the best foods for supplying the teeth with nourishment. It makes the dentin cementum and enamel strong, flint-like and able to resist all forms of decay. If you have children, never allow any white bread upon your table. Bread made of whole wheat, ground, not bolted, so that the bran, which contains the minute quantities of lime, is present, is best. Nothing is superior to brown bread for bone and tooth building. This is made of rye-meal and corn-meal. Baked beans, too, have a considerable supply of these lime salts, and should be on everybody's table, hot or cold, twice a week."

"Is the habit of chewing gum injurious to the teeth?"

"Gum-chewing is liable to enlarge the muscles which control the movements of the lower jaw, thereby changing, possibly for the better, both the contour and expression of the face. If the gum be pure, I see nothing in the habit to condemn, except its vulgarity, as it has no baneful effect upon the teeth, and is a good teeth-cleansing agent."—Banner.

GROWTH OF TRADE WITH JAPAN.

The Northern Pacific line of steamers to the Orient has been increased until five magnificent steamships are regularly employed, with freight left on the docks at every trip. This has been the condition for some time, and now it is found necessary to put on two special steamers to carry the overflow of regular freight and the large shipment of steel purchased in this country for Japanese railways.

Our trade with Japan has rapidly increased the past three years. The department of commerce of Japan issues a volume of valuable statistical details of custom-house regulations and other information showing the growth of the commerce of that country, and it is a fact that the United States is the purchaser of Japanese raw materials.

In 1893 the exports of Japan to this country amounted to only 27,700,000 yen, which in 1895 reached 54,000,000 yen. Since that time our trade with Japan has increased still more rapidly, and the bulk of this commerce is done at Tacoma. Especially has our trade grown in cotton and manufactured iron, machinery and railway supplies.—Tacoma (Wash.) Ledger.

POSTAGE-STAMPS.

Return postage should always be inclosed when a letter is sent on one's personal affairs and an answer is expected. To omit the necessary stamps for the answer is a breach of courtesy, and to persons whose correspondence is large, and who must buy stamps in large numbers to carry it on, the cost of stamps in matters with which they have no direct concern may involve a serious expense. This is understood by most people, and only the heedless and inadvertent forget that they must invariably include in their communications return postage when sending a letter on business which is purely their own, and interesting to them alone.

In sending return postage, never slip the stamp loosely inside your letter. It may easily be lost, dropped on the floor or overlooked. Do not, particularly in damp weather, so carelessly affix it to your paper that it will stick fast and with difficulty be detached. Cut a little slit in the note-paper and thus fasten it, if you like; but preferably, if one

or two stamps are all you are sending, place them on an envelop addressed to yourself. This little precaution will save your friend from trouble, and will almost always insure you a very prompt reply to your request.

The collecting of postage-stamps is a fascinating occupation, and one learns much of history, geography and the progress of the world by studying the stamps each nation uses. Canceled stamps, as certainly accurate and really in vogue, are better for the collector's purpose than those which have never been used. These may be imitations, clever and picturesque, but not the things themselves.

From time to time people laboriously pile up and accumulate immense quantities of stamps, under the impression that a million of them will serve some great philanthropic end. This is an error, and the painstaking stamp-gatherers are doomed to disappointment.—Harper's Bazar.

A PRINCIPLE OLDER THAN THE MONROE DOCTRINE.

What is meant by the phrase "international isolation" as thus used is this: The United States is certainly now entitled to rank among the great powers of the world. Yet, while its place among the nations is assured, it purposely takes its stand outside the European family circle to which it belongs, and neither accepts the responsibilities of its place nor secures its advantages. It avowedly restricts its activities to the American continent and intentionally assumes an attitude of absolute aloofness to everything outside those continents. This rule of policy is not infrequently associated with another which is known as the Monroe doctrine, as if the former grew out of the Monroe doctrine or were in a sense a kind of consideration for that doctrine or a sort of complement to it. In reality the rule of isolation originated and was applied many years before the Monroe doctrine was proclaimed.

No doubt consistency requires that the conduct toward America which America expects of Europe should be by America observed toward Europe. Nor is there any more doubt that such reciprocal conduct is required of us, not only by consistency, but by both principle and expediency. The vital feature of the Monroe doctrine is that no European power shall forcibly possess itself of American soil and forcibly control the political fortunes and destinies of its people. Assuredly America can have no difficulty in governing its behavior toward Europe on the same lines.

Tradition and precedent are a potent force in the new world as well as in the old, and dominate the counsels of modern democracies as well as those of ancient monarchies. The rule of international isolation for America was formulated by Washington, was embalmed in the earnest and solemn periods of the farewell address, and has come down to succeeding generations with all the immense prestige attaching to the injunctions of the "Father of His Country."—Hon. Richard Olney, in Atlantic Monthly.

"OLD GLORY."

Our flag, the "Stars and Stripes," was named "Old Glory" in 1831 by a Salem skipper, one William Driver, at that time captain of the brig Charles Doggett. Just before the brig left Salem a young man at the head of a party of friends saluted Capt. Driver on the deck of the Doggett and presented him with a large and beautifully made American flag. Capt. Driver christened it "Old Glory." He took it to the South Pacific, and years after, when old age forced him to relinquish the sea, he treasured the flag.

Capt. Driver removed to Nashville, Tenn., in 1837, and he died there in 1886. Previous to the outbreak of hostilities between the North and South, "Old Glory" was flung to the breeze every day from the window of Capt. Driver's Nashville house, but when the bullets began to zip and the odor of gunpowder to taint the air, the old flag had to be secreted.

It was kept out of sight inside a great bed comfortable, until February 27, 1862, when Brigadier-General Nelson's wing of the Union army appeared in Nashville, and Capt. Driver presented it to the general to be hoisted on the capitol. It was run up, and Capt. Driver himself did the hoisting. He watched it through the night, and a heavy wind coming up, he took it down and sent a new flag up in its place.

The original "Old Glory" was beginning to ribbon. The second flag owned by Capt. Driver was given to the Ohio Sixth when that regiment left Nashville for home. It was placed in the rear of a baggage-wagon, where a mule nosed it out and devoured it. The original "Old Glory" was preserved, and after the death of Capt. Driver, in 1886, it was presented to the Essex Institute, at Salem, where it may now be seen.—Boston Times.

"Our people here," writes Mr. H. P. Greeno, East Troy, Wis., "think Peerless Atlas and other FARM AND FIRESIDE or the WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION one year, all for one dollar, the greatest bargain ever offered. I intend to follow the work right up."

ANIMALS AND MUSIC.

Experiments have recently been made in Lincoln park, Chicago, to determine with scientific accuracy the effects of violin-playing on certain animals.

Music which was low and sweet, like "Home, Sweet Home," or "Annie Laurie," pleased the panthers, a jaguar and a lioness with her cubs. The panthers became nervous and twitched their tails when a lively jig, "The Irish Washerwoman," was played to them, and relapsed into their former quiet when the music again became soothing.

The jaguar was so nervous during the jig music that he jumped from a shelf to the floor of his cage and back again. When the player ceased playing and walked away, the jaguar reached out his paw to him as far as he could. His claws were drawn back.

The lioness and her cubs were interested from the first, though when the violinist approached the cage the mother gave a hiss and the cubs hid behind her. At the playing of a lively jig, the cubs stood up on their hind legs and peeped over at the player. When the musician retreated from the cage, the animals came to the front of it, and did not move back when he gradually drew so near as almost to touch the great paws which were thrust through the bars. When playing "Home, Sweet Home," the entire family seemed very attentive, and were motionless, except that the cubs turned their heads from side to side. Then another jig was played, and the cubs pranced about.

The coyotes in a den squatted in a semicircle, and sat silently while the music continued. When it ceased they ran up and pawed at the player through the bars. He began afresh, and they again formed a silent semicircle. This experiment was tried several times, with the same results.—The American Naturalist.

THE KEY TO GLADSTONE'S CHARACTER.

Conviction is the key to Gladstone's character, the explanation of its seeming paradoxes and inconsistencies—conviction based upon the action and reaction of a powerful intellect and a powerful conscience. Conscience, sensitive to over-refinement, told his intellect what was right. Intellect, acute, eager, thoroughly informed, showed him how to reduce the abstract right to the concrete action, to proclaim the imperative truth of the hour so that men saw and obeyed, so that injustice was swept from the statute-books and justice put in its place. Opportunism without conscience is sordid and low, however successful it may be. Conscience without opportunism is in action that stupidity, against which, as the German poet says, the gods themselves strive in vain. Gladstone combined the two as few other statesmen have ever done. And to justify the union, in his character and his career, it is only necessary to point to his stainless public and private life, his noble public utterances, his profoundly moral public policies, and above all to his deeds—his achievements in elevating, educating and dignifying the masses of the English people. Death has given to history a colossus of democracy, a citizen of the world, a friend of mankind.—New York World.

"PRESS THE BUTTON."

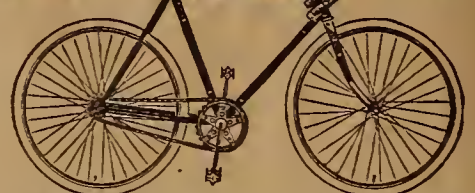
A feature of the modern gun will doubtless be its accuracy of aim. The guns of the first monitor had the ordinary sights, and the men had to look out through the port-holes of a revolving turret to find the enemy. We might say they often fired "on the wing" with very indefinite notions of the range and the briefest instant for training guns. The Iowa's turrets have small boxes projecting above the covers for lookouts. Horizontal slits are cut near the tops of these boxes, giving a view around the horizon. The guns themselves are aimed by means of cross-hairs in telescopes, and fired by electric buttons which are instantaneous in their action. Once the cross-hair is on the object the projectile may be sent on its way at a velocity of two thousand feet a second before the roll of the ship has time to impair its accuracy. The range is found by means of instruments set up as far apart as possible, which make the ship the base of a triangle having the target for its apex. In case of failure of the instruments the range may be found by trial of the rapid-fire guns, which deliver from six to twenty shots a minute.—Prof. Ira N. Hollis, in Atlantic Monthly.

ORIGIN OF ENVELOPES.

The institution of payment for the carriage of letters and envelopes dates, as far as can be ascertained, from the reign of Louis XIV., at which time Sieur de Valfrey organized a service of private post and placed his letter-boxes at the street-corners. The envelopes for these letters were bought at special offices. In the Egerton collection of manuscripts, at the British Museum, there is an envelop resembling our present one, which holds a letter from Madame de Pompadour to the Duchesse d'Anguillon, dated 1760. There is also exhibited an envelop of coarse paper, opening at both ends, addressed by Frederick the Great to an English general in his service. It is dated Potsdam, July 28, 1776.

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In these days of humbuggery and quackery it will prove a boon to female sufferers, for Mrs. Ellen Worley, Box 666, Springfield, Ohio, has prepared to distribute several thousand free packages to those of her sex who will write for them.

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MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, SPRINGFIELD, OHIO.

THE PLACE FOR WOMEN IN THE WAR.

Let me tell the enthusiastic, young, inexperienced nurses something they will not like to hear. If they go to the front unprepared, they will embarrass the surgeons and retard the recovery of the men. Should there be a hospital full of men ill with the yellow fever, the girl who leaves her home at the North and goes down to nurse her soldier will take the fever and embarrass the doctor essentially. The history of the Crimea will prove that. In our war the lady nurses were, almost one half of them, utterly absurd, and in connection with this I will mention one lady who went down to a hospital steamboat on the Potomac. She took her maid with her. One wounded officer told me that as he lay snarling from a gunshot wound, he saw her having her hair dressed. Then the maid applied the bare foot and a little rouge blushed on her prepared cheeks. Then this imitation of Florence Nightingale came to dress his wound for him. She hurt him so badly that he begged of her to let him alone until the surgeon came along.

Women in those days wore hoops, and such an awkward scene as would ensue on a crowded steamboat! And the debris of a broken hoop-skirt thrown aside induced Edward Hale to write one of his best stories, how the hoop-skirt got into the carriage after a transformation!

Of course, this was but the ludicrous exception, but it was long before the amateur nurse became useful. Even those magnificent women, the volunteer amateur Sisters of Charity, under "Sister Harriet," of whom the Rev. Morgan Dix has written so very interestingly, who threw themselves into the Southern cities when epidemics of yellow fever broke out, and died like sheep, were more of a hindrance than a help, because they did not know how to guard themselves. A trained nurse, a woman who has disciplined her physique against contagion, the strong muscle, the cool temperament, the experienced woman—she and she alone should go to that dreadful place, a military hospital, or to the neighborhood of a battle-field.

I had in my campaign of four years with the sanitary commission a very great experience of the folly of "going to the front" for young and most selfish enthusiastic women, "those disciples without a master," who are so very sure that the noble heart and willing hand and the cultivated brain would take the place of a strong backbone, an invincible stomach and a real or a cultivated insensibility to sights of pain. There are very few women who can bear the last. As a young surgeon told me after the battle of Five Forks, he had more to do for the fainting women who were waiting on the outskirts to succor the wounded than he had to do with the men, and I leave out of the count those, and there were not a few, who went purely for the excitement and the amusement. There should be, as Florence Nightingale says, "No nurses but those who are trained and who have proved that they can be a help and not a hindrance."

"She is dead, but speaketh," and may her wise and reasonable words reach the Red Cross leaders of to-day!

The place for women in war is in the reserve corps. It is the saddest sight to see that fringe of women and children marching down Fifth Avenue by the side of the departing soldiers. Above the ear-piercing life we hear the somber drum-beat of aching and breaking hearts. Oh, that our warlike Congressmen could have thought of this diapason of woe last Valentine's day, when we had no war! Would it not be more kind to that departing regiment to spare them this farewell? Perhaps that is too much to ask of loving, unreasonable, faithful womanhood.—Mrs. Sherwood, in New York Times.

HIS OBJECTIONS TO WOMEN.

A writer in an English paper explains the wherefore of his aversion to the feminine sex in the following reasons. I hate woman:

Because she stabs me in the eye with her parasol, offers no apology and looks as if I did it.

Because she pushes for a place in the trains and omnibuses and, being in, never makes room for any other person.

Because she climbs to the tops of omnibuses, to descend from which demands grace and decency.

Because she thinks the only way to make an omnibus stop is to prod the driver, if she cannot reach the conductor.

Because she mislays her bag, loses her handkerchief and carries her purse in her hand.

Because she recites, plays violins and rides bicycles.

Because she walks three in a row upon the pavement, and expects every one else to make way for her.

Because she is "fluent, but not lucid," and more concerned about the number of her facts than the truth of them.

Because, in nine cases out of ten, she can neither sew nor read aloud nor make tea.

Because she is always writing letters and wanting me and others to answer them.

Because she is the slave to fashion; and that not only in clothes, but in art, music, manners, religion, flowers, jewelry, language and furniture.

Because she does not value anything simply because it is "good" (following a fashion set in the days before woman existed), but because it is "worn" or "done," or even "talked about."

PRESENT DAY EXTRAVAGANCES.

To-day over 22,000,000 men stand armed in Europe, at the expense of toiling men and women. The amount of money invested in the world in the implements of war has been estimated at \$26,000,000,000 (twenty-six thousand millions of dollars). If this stupendous sum were divided among the people of the United States, every person could buy a farm, and every family a mansion. Over against this wicked waste observe that the people of the United States gave last year the paltry sum of \$6,000,000, all told, for the support of the gospel, or less than the amount of the liquor bill for two days; and the dog bill for the year was over \$60,000,000. More money was spent for salt, more for shoe-blackening and more for matches used in lighting men's cigars than was given for the proclamation of the gospel, on the acceptance or rejection of which depends the eternal destiny of every rational human being. \$22,000,000 was spent last year in this country for chewing-gum; \$600,000,000 for jewelry; \$900,000,000 for tobacco; and more than \$1,500,000,000, or nearly \$4,000,000 a day, for strong drink; besides millions upon millions of dollars for many other useless and wasteful extravagances.—Christian Union.

"So far I have sold Peerless Atlas to nine persons out of every ten that I have canvassed," says Mrs. Viola A. Siemer, Los Angeles, Cal., "and am absolutely certain I can nearly or quite maintain that rate throughout. I need 30 Atlases immediately."

Recent Publications.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.

Kelly Foundry and Machine Co., Goshen, Ind. Illustrated descriptive catalogue of Goshen galvanized steel tanks, tank-heaters, low wagon-wheels and other specialties.

Henry Wallis, Wellston, St. Louis county, Mo. Nursery catalogue, Specialty, the "Dr. R. Hicks," a new hardy, productive grape, claimed to be the "Great Concord of the Twentieth Century."

A. H. Foster, Allegan, Mich. Souvenir Hand-book No. 3 is filled with useful information, and is sent in place of a regular catalogue by Mr. Foster, who is a breeder of Shropshire sheep and Poland-China swine, and a grower of pedigree farm seeds.

BOOK NOTICES.

TODD'S NEW ASTRONOMY. By David P. Todd, M.A., Ph.D. Professor of Astronomy and Director of the Observatory, Amherst College. Cloth, 12mo, 500 pages. Illustrated. Price \$1.30. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago.

BIRDS OF THE UNITED STATES. A manual for the identification of species in hand or in the bush, east of the Rocky mountains. By Austin C. Apgar. Cloth, 12mo, 415 pages. Fully illustrated. American Book Company, New York, Cincinnati and Chicago.

THE TRACTION ENGINE. A book of instructions for operators of farm engines, by an expert engineer. Small 12mo, cloth. Illustrated. Price \$1. Published by David McKay, Philadelphia, Pa.

GREENHOUSE MANAGEMENT. A manual for florists and flower-lovers, on the forcing of flowers, vegetables and fruits in greenhouses, and the propagation and care of house-plants. By L. R. Taft, Professor of Horticulture and Landscape-gardening, Michigan Agricultural College, and author of "Greenhouse Construction." Illustrated. Cloth, 12mo, 440 pages. Price \$1.40, postpaid. Orange Judd Company, New York.

THE DOMESTIC SHEEP. Its culture and general management. By Henry Stewart, author of "The Shepherd's Manual," "The Dairyman's Manual," "Irrigation for the Farm, Garden and Orchard," "The Culture of Farm Crops." Cloth, 372 pages. Illustrated with 165 engravings, representing sheep-life in all its varied departments. Price \$1.50. Published by American Sheep Breeder, Chicago, Ill.

A BIG GAME AND FISHING GUIDE TO NORTH-EASTERN MAINE. A handsomely illustrated book of special interest to travelers, fishermen and sportsmen. Price 10 cents in stamps. Issued by the Bangor and Aroostock Railroad, Bangor, Maine.

WONDERLAND '98. By Olin D. Wheeler. Tourist book issued by the Passenger Department of the Northern Pacific Railway. Beautifully and profusely illustrated and filled with valuable information for travelers and home students. Price six cents in stamps. Distributed by Chas. S. Fee, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, St. Paul, Minn.

THE PLOW, COW AND STEER. Report of Kansas State Board of Agriculture for quarter ending March, 1898. Secretary Cohn's quarterly reports are manuals of Kansas agriculture. Price 5 cents in stamps. F. D. Cohn, Secretary, Topeka, Kan.



THE EDGE OF A DOLLAR

doesn't look so big as the face of it.—the woman who buys soap for house-cleaning loses sight of economy—she looks at her money edgewise. The woman who values her money as well as her strength uses

GOLD DUST

Washing Powder.

and has something to show for her labor beside a worn face and a pair of rough hands. Largest package—greatest economy.

The N. K. Fairbank Company,
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Dr. Swift's

RHEUMATIC AND GOUT CURE

Only Rheumatic Cure in the World Guaranteed to Cure or Money Refunded.

\$1.00 a bottle,
3 bottles \$2.50
with Guarantee.

The Famous Physician's Great Gift to the American People

100,000 Bottles of His World-famed Rheumatism Cure to Be

GIVEN AWAY DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST

America's famous physician, Dr. Swift, has decided to distribute among the lame and crippled 100,000 trial bottles of his Rheumatic and Gout Cure to those who write and ask for them, inclosing 10 cents in stamps to pay for postage and packing.

Each bottle contains enough to speedily cure any recent case, and unless the disease has become deep-seated no more medicine will be required.

By Dr. Swift's philanthropy tens of thousands of cripples will be restored to life and activity absolutely without charge, but during June, July and August only.

If you suffer without hope of recovery; if you have been called "incurable;" if you believe there is absolutely no help for you, don't fail to obtain a free bottle of the miracle-working specific which is revolutionizing medical practice.

Over 3,000 leading physicians are to-day using Dr. Swift's Rheumatic and Gout Cure in their most difficult cases with the most marvelous results.

The Chicago Medical Times says: "Dr. Swift's discovery is astonishing practitioners everywhere, for the reported cures are astonishing to a degree."

Dr. Swift is to-day doing more for suffering humanity in banishing crutches, canes, aches and pains than all the hospitals combined. His discovery is an absolute cure 97 times in 100, and is the most important one within fifty years.

If in doubt as to your disease write freely to Dr. Swift, Monadnock Block, Chicago, and your case will be thoroughly diagnosed free of charge, and you will be told what to do so you can go to your druggist and thus save doctor's fees.

AMERICAN WOMEN

The very finest Parlor Book published for years at a price within the reach of ordinary homes, while its Literary and Reference Value can hardly be overstated. Edited by the lamented Frances E. Willard jointly with Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. Over 1,400 Half-tone Portraits and Magnificent Full-page Portrait Groupings. Send for our circular, "An Inkling of Its Contents," Specimen Illustrations and Full Particulars, FREE.

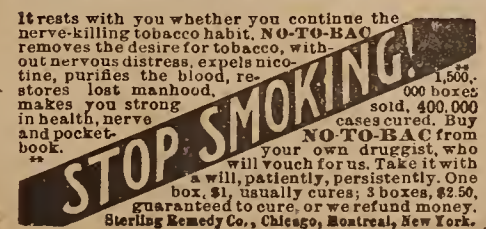
AGENTS WANTED

Any intelligent man or woman who will follow the carefully prepared instructions for selling "American Women" can handle this book successfully. Those of bookish tastes and who feel at home among cultured people do extraordinarily well with it. Lady Agents like this book most thoroughly, and are realizing large incomes every week. Write immediately, stating book experience (if any), territory desired, etc.

Address MAST, CROWELL & KIRKPATRICK, Springfield, Ohio.

RHEUMATISM

Permanently cured by using DR. WHITEHALL'S RHEUMATIC CURE. The surest and the best. Sample sent free on mention of this publication. THE DR. WHITEHALL MEGRIMME CO., South Bend, Indiana.

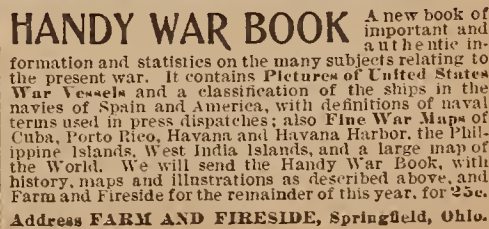


It treats with you whether you continue the nerve-killing tobacco habit. NO-TO-BAC removes the desire for tobacco, without nervous distress, expels nicotine, purifies the blood, restores lost manhood. makes you strong in health, nerve and pocket-book.

STOP SMOKING!

1,500 cases cured. Buy your own druggist, who will vouch for us. Take it with a will, patiently, persistently. One box, \$1. usually cures; 3 boxes, \$2.50, guaranteed to cure, or we refund money.

Sterling Remedy Co., Chicago, Montreal, New York.



HANDY WAR BOOK

A new book of important and authentic information and statistics on the many subjects relating to the present war. It contains Pictures of United States War Vessels and a classification of the ships in the navies of Spain and America, with definitions of naval terms used in press dispatches; also Fine War Maps of Cuba, Porto Rico, Havana and Havana Harbor, the Philippine Islands, West India Islands, and a large map of the World. We will send the Handy War Book, with history, maps and illustrations as described above, and Farm and Fireside for the remainder of this year, for 25c.

Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

Our Household.

THE ANGEL OF THE RESURRECTION.

I know that Thou wilt come when time is right,

Open my eyes and I shall cast aside
Grave ceremonies and then return to light
And be as one who lives, who never died.

We'll follow Thee, O Thou most Holy One,
Out from the tomb, e'en as the springtime
seed

Breaks through a shell and seeks the warm-
ing sun

Upward and onward as it finds a need.

I know that I will live again and Thou
Wilt have for me a form, a world, a bliss;
A further duty show, and wilt endow
Me with existence in the Easter kiss.

Serene I go, my present path assured:
This one short phase has no disturbing
fears;

I was, I am, I have enjoyed, endured—
Thou measurest not by this star's petty
years.

Thou'll oft restore me to a higher stage,
Create in me a more perfected aim.
Awake me from calm rests in any age
To play a part that never is the same.

Thou leadest up the pathway of the stars
On through a thousand worlds; in this I see
Perfected truth, and so no doubting mars
The purpose that my God works out in me.
—Elizabeth Cherry Haire, in *Womankind*.

HOME TOPICS.

HOT-WEATHER DESSERTS.—Except fresh, uncooked fruit, there is no handier dessert than one made from gelatin. There are a number of different preparations, but I have used a good brand of phosphated gelatin for several years, and like it very much. A plain gelatin, flavored and eaten with or without cream, is refreshing. If you have not quite enough fruit for a dessert alone, put it into a gelatin after it has partly hardened, press it down and set it in a cold place for five or six hours, and you will pronounce it delicious. Any kind of berries, peaches, bananas, oranges, pineapple or almost any kind of fruit may be used, or two or more kinds mixed, and all the results will be delicate and delicious.

SALADS.—Another dish which is good at any time, but especially good in hot weather, is a salad. There is no doubt that the American people eat too much meat at all seasons of the year, and surely during hot weather the body needs a lighter and more cooling diet. Physicians say that bowel diseases are often caused by eating too much meat in hot weather. The old idea that fruit and vegetables were not healthful has long since been proven a mistake. If the fruit is ripe, and both fruit and vegetables fresh, there can be no danger in their use. Vegetable, egg or fish salads are better in summer than those which contain meat. There is hardly any kind of vegetable that may not be used in a salad, and if you do not wish to make the standard mayonnaise dressing, there are simpler salad dressings which are good and recipes for which have been given in the *FARM AND FIRESIDE* from time to time. A small quantity of salad dressing may be made very quickly in an emergency by simply mixing three teaspoonfuls of vinegar or lemon-juice with six tablespoonfuls of either sweet or sour cream, beating together a minute, and then seasoning with a tiny bit of cayenne and salt and pepper to taste.

THE KITCHEN TABLE.—Comparatively few housekeepers can have one of the patent kitchen tables which combine so many conveniences in one, but if you will have a piece of zinc fitted to the top of a common table, large enough to come over the edges, and tack it fast, you will find it a great improvement. An oil-cloth is better than the bare table, which needs constant scrubbing to keep it clean, but the oil-cloth soon gets shabby and needs renewing. A zinc cover is almost indestructible. Hot saucepans, etc., do not affect it, grease is as easily removed as water, and the top of the table is kept bright and shining with very little work. If you have no sink in which to wash dishes, it is an advantage to have a strip of wood a half inch thick put around the edge of the table first, and the zinc fitted over it. This will keep water from running off and down to the floor.

FOR THE VERANDA.—A large, broad veranda is the most comfortable room of the house during the warm months of the year, but it needs furniture of its own.

One or two hammocks, low, comfortable chairs, foot-rests, a table to hold the work-basket, magazines and papers, and from which the Sunday night supper may be served—all these are needed; but besides these have plenty of cushions. Make them of brown linen, of denim or some other wash goods, and fill some of them with new hay or dried clover-blossoms. They will be cool and restful. Live out of doors all that is possible. If work drives it is not lost time to rest in a hammock or easy-chair out of doors fifteen or twenty minutes. The work will be easier afterward. Remember tired, overworked nature will finally rebel and you will be forced to rest at last, maybe on a bed of sickness and maybe the long rest under the green sod. Will it not be better to take a little rest as you go along? It will make you not only a happier but a better woman.

MAIDA McL.

HEMSTITCHING.

As so much hand-work is put upon everything these days, the art of fine needlework is receiving a marked attention. Hemstitching has always been a favorite adornment of dainty articles, and

several spaces where each one, if he or she used the word which I was trying to render obsolete, in my family at least, could mark a figure on. Each of these was to be equal to the sum of five cents, and at the end of a month the whole amount should go to purchase a book for the one who had no mark. At the end of the month the list stood fifteen, eight and one. The boy of the family owned the largest number and the youngest girl the smallest. It almost broke her heart, too, to think she even had one. Well, that was the end of that word, and that was worth everything. The children often say that nothing could induce them to ever use it again; and it was so little trouble and had a better effect than any punishment ever would have. Try it, mothers, and see. A sheet of white paper with a pencil near it (when each child can put down a black mark for breaking certain rules) is one of the best of correctives. It seems to carry more weight when he has to face his own conscience, as it were, and in the privacy of his own apartment look at the matter when uninfluenced by anger or the presence of others; he then has time and opportunity for thought, and he is far more likely to be benefited by the above course

ought to be; some one has taken it," and so, instead of dressing herself quietly, there is a perfect uproar, as every one has to lend a helping hand to assist her in doing the work she should have done the evening before, not of dressing, but of putting things in their proper places. It is one continual song, "Oh, I shall be late to school this morning, I know. Where are my ribbons? Some one has taken them; I put them away last night. Oh, here they are, behind the machine. Ma, fasten my dress quick. Where on earth are my hair-pins? Does any one know? Have you a curling-iron? Was that the bell? Oh, goodness! Is my dinner put up? There, I have burnt my hair! Where in the world is a handkerchief? This one is dirty. Well, now, don't that beat all? What has become of my rubbers? Oh, yes; I left them on the porch. Ma, am I all right? I am in such a fidget. Is my hat on straight? I just know we will have visitors at school to-day! Well, good-by." Exit school-girl, while mother sighs a weary sigh of relief to think that at least she can work now without interruption. Careless habits are easily made and well nigh impossible to overcome when once formed. In fact, I do not believe it is possible to some girls to ever learn to be as particular as others in the care of their clothes. One may talk and make rules and set a good example, but all the same down go the dresses on the floor, while the smaller belongings are scattered to the winds, and "Oh, I forgot," is the ever-ready answer. A mother hath need of many virtues, but of a truth patience should both head and end the list; for verily, she hath great need thereof.

A. M. M.

PUTTING UP FRUIT.

Where the family is not large you will find it much less work and trouble to put up your fruit in small quantities, unless you have a great deal of it on your place.

Such being the case, it is better to sell part of it for enough to buy the sugar for the rest. My success with strawberries leads me to give you my recipe. I never try to do more than two or three quarts at a time, and I always use the firm dark red berry, even if it is small, in preference to the large light-colored ones, as when they are cooked at all they lose all form and shape. Take even quantities of berries and sugar. Put the sugar on to cook alone first, and let it cook as a syrup for ten minutes; then put in only enough berries to cover the bottom of the pan; let these cook rapidly for fifteen minutes, shaking the pan and never stirring. Then carefully lift out the berries into tumblers, after you have cooked them all; begin to fill up your tumblers with the syrup; the berries will settle some, and next day it will be well to fill them up again with some syrup into which you have mashed some other berries. When cold, cover the top with melted paraffin, and then cover with paper held on by a rubber band. A combination of cherries and strawberries, or cherries and red raspberries, makes a very deliciously flavored sauce. I always cook them until they assume the proportions of preserves.

I also make a very toothsome dish of ripe gooseberries, using a quart of sugar to a pint of berries, a tablespoonful of cinnamon and half a teaspoonful of cloves; watch closely so it does not burn, and cook for thirty minutes.

I had last summer a two-burner coal-oil stove on which I cooked all my fruit. I could take it where it was cool, and by doing only a little at a time saved myself much fatigue.

Does it ever occur to you to do up some of each kind for some one who is old or some one who is sick, and put that on a special shelf by itself and call it "the one tenth shelf?" I think you will then know how much more blessed it is to give than to receive.

CHRISTIE IRVING.

Don't neglect your cold—let your doctor prescribe for it; or take Dr. D. Jayne's prescription—Jayne's Expectorant.

"People hardly believe me when I promise them *Peerless Atlas* and *WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION* for one year, all for a dollar. Some say point-blank, 'You can't give \$2 worth for \$1—it is impossible.'" So writes Mr. A. Eby, Topeka, Kan., and to settle the matter he sends a large order for *Peerless* (not *People's*) *Atlas*. We make extra favorable terms to agents for this *Atlas*, and it is the greatest seller on the agency trade.

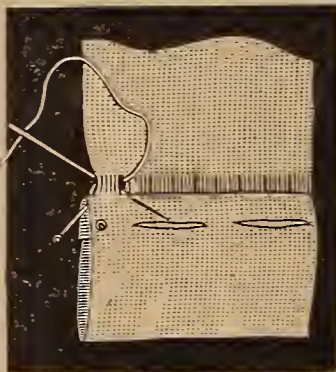


FIG. 1.

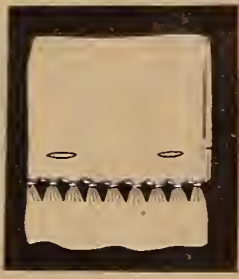


FIG. 2.



FIG. 3.



FIG. 4.



FIG. 5.



FIG. 6.



FIG. 7.

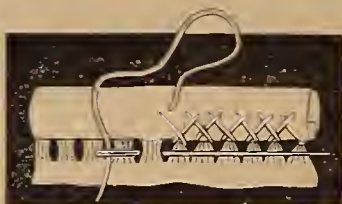


FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.

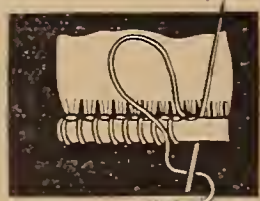


FIG. 10.

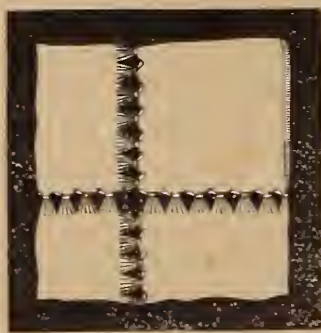


FIG. 11.

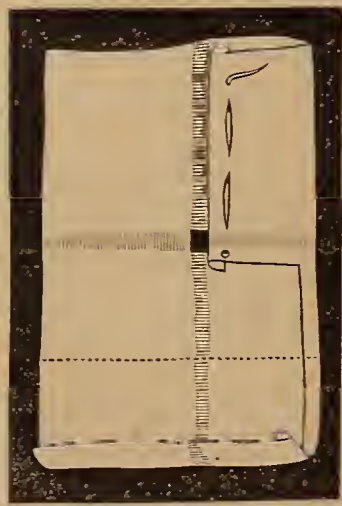


FIG. 12.

gives an individuality to one's belongings.

We give the illustrations in coarse material so that the flow of the needle can readily be seen. All of themselves are so simple as to need no extended explanation, except Fig. 12, which shows how to cut out a corner, when it is better to have only the same amount of material there as along the hem. Learn first upon a coarse material, and the finer will come easier afterward.

L. L. C.

A MOTHER'S TRIALS.

There are times when one is just put to their wit's end to know how to conquer a bad habit in a child, and have felt, after trying every available means without any apparent effect, like resorting to something desperate. A year or two ago our small people got into the way of using some "bywords," of which it seemed impossible to break them. I tried various remedies, all to no purpose; they just would forget until the word was uttered. At last it occurred to me to try a sheet of white paper whereon was written the names of each of the children; below the names were

than by miles of heated lectures and arguments, which at best only serve to stir up a feeling of resentment and antagonism, and so defeat the end in view.

Another thing which is almost impossible is to teach young girls to hang up their dresses, cloaks and hats, and put their ribbons, ties and gloves in their proper places, etc. Generally a girl comes home from school or elsewhere, jerks off her cloak and hood or hat, tosses them on the bed or a chair, slings her rubbers in the corner or behind the stove, unbuttons her dress with a jerk while going to her room, leaves the dress on the floor, grabs another, throws it on and hastily fastens it, leaving the one she has taken off to be a mass of wrinkles in the morning, unties her ribbons, throwing them here and there or anywhere (they will seem to be nowhere when she wants them again in the morning), and seizing a late magazine, throws herself down in a chair, declaring she is "tired to death," leaving her room in a state of confusion fearful to behold. In the morning she is angry at the appearance of her dress; she cannot find this or that; she is certain that she "put it right where it

ICE AND REFRIGERATORS.

Among farmers there is a dearth of such luxuries as ice, ices and refrigerators; and I frequently wonder at it, though belonging to that class of individuals who very frequently feel compelled to say, "I can't afford them." Ice every day would be positively a luxury throughout the summer months. But with ice at forty and fifty cents a hundredweight the majority feel that they cannot indulge in ices and cool drinks, frozen fruits, etc., even did they own their refrigerators.

But why need the farmer be dependent, and why is he so universally dependent upon the village supply of ice for his own supplies? And he usually is if his family have ice at all. The consequence is that the farmer and his family are denied the frozen dainties that would be so extremely desirable and palatable, and that are so freely indulged in by many city and village people.

I have made a vow relative to this ice-house question. Not another summer will find me without a goodly supply of ice right upon my own farm and but a few steps from the back door. The present season has been and is an improvement in this respect over that of any previous season, from the fact that my ice costs nothing, and is but a short distance from me. Half a mile away lives a neighbor who, owning an unused silo, asked two of his neighbors to join him in filling the silo with ice, and one of the two was the head of our household,

\$85 and much higher. Comparatively few would feel that they could expend so much money for a refrigerator. It is, of course, understood that the expense once met, no further outlay is ever necessary. No ice is required. By this method or process of evaporation, which is all accomplished by chemical means, the air is kept at from six



to ten degrees lower than it is possible to obtain with ice. Moreover, there is never any moisture within the refrigerator walls. The air is always dry and extremely cold, so it is said. But—first cost. Therein lies the trouble. Besides, I have recently been informed that a room wherein the chemically operated refrigerator stands smells strongly of ammonia. Ammonia is not a disagreeable smell when just an occasional odor reaches one, but to live in a house where the atmosphere is charged with it continually, even

it and for the sugar for creams, and the expense is not noticed. And when it comes to entertaining one's friends nothing seems to compare with the little lunch-table laden with the delicious plates of ice-cream and dainty white cakes. There is everything in favor of the ice-house, refrigerator and freezer, and no farm should be considered well equipped without them.

ELLA HOUGHTON.

FASHION-LAND FOR CHILDREN.

Children nowadays are not excluded from fashion-land, and one sees in the large stores in New York as many lovely and dainty articles for children's wear as for older folks.

There are jaunty little reefers in white honeycomb cloth. Empire back, double-breasted front, and collar daintily trimmed with braid for very small children. Honeycomb cloth is a soft washable material, and is especially adapted to children's wear.

A novel petticoat for young girls is made of fine plaid mohair with corded ruffle, the whole so light in weight as to be particularly desirable for summer.

There are the creeping aprons of fine gingham for small children, and infants' long slips of soft, fine nainsook, finished with dainty embroidery.

White lawn hats, washable, Tam crown, with shirred brim edged with lace.

Girls' shirt-waists, with sailor collars of white pique, which is quite the thing this year for shirt-waists.

Boys' wash sailor suits in cotton chevrot or galatea, collar and shield trimmed with braid and embroidered with suitable emblems.

Dainty umbrellas of china silk, ruffled all over, with pretty handles of natural wood.

And indeed there are so many, many pretty and reasonable articles that one hesitates which to mention.

The above hints may be of service to the homedressmaker or to the intending buyer. EMMA LOUISE HAUCK ROWE.

PERUVIAN WORK.

A special grade of coarse linen is brought on in the fancy stores for this work. While the colors used are many and vivid, yet they must harmonize. Twist silk is used. This work is used mostly for pillows, table-cloths, gloves and handkerchief-cases.

TULIP CENTERPIECE.—In this work is introduced double cross-stitch, which promises to be a very great favorite in combination with large flowers. Use a color for the border, and carry a cord along the edge to work over.

INITIALS.—These come all ready to baste on your articles, and are of linen pulp. They serve as the filling, also, and are easily worked over. In sizes for napkins they are fifty cents a dozen, but come in larger and smaller size.

THE SAMPLER.—All teachers in embroidery now have the scholars use a sam-

ple, as it is easier to teach one flower at a time to the class, and the pupils learn more and make better progress in this way. You can add others from time to time. If you wish to utilize it you can hemstitch it and use it for a stand-cover. B. K.

ful, at least delicious and very desirable, and we feel sure are more healthful than the rich pastries and cake too frequently found upon the farmer's table through the heated term of months.



I have been thinking, too, and investigating somewhat into the chemical process of refrigerating. The first expense of the refrigerator operated with chemicals as the freezing element is very expensive. Refrigerators of fifty pounds ice capacity are from \$35 upward, while those holding one hundred pounds of ice are from \$50 to

if not very strongly, would be found objectionable.

A very good and very pretty hard-wood, zinc-lined refrigerator of fifty pounds ice capacity may be had for from \$12 to \$15 from almost any dealer in furniture or hardware, and out of season I believe one could be purchased at a greatly reduced price. It is this belief that I am going to keep right in mind, and when the summer is past am going to see what I can do by offering to buy one that some dealer does not want to carry over, preferring to "turn his money over." Merchants are invariably wanting to "turn their money over," and buying goods out of season is the opportunity to the person of limited means. It is unfortunate that people of scant means cannot more often avail themselves of the real bargains that are offered by merchants who are closing out a stock of goods to make room for those of newer design, or goods appropriate to and in demand of the season. Watch the corners and for bargains is very good advice, and I shall "watch the corners" for a refrigerator bargain between this and another refrigerator season. It may be well for others to do the same, and then to watch for and clip out and keep for reference the ice-house articles that we shall be sure to find written by those who have had experience.

A necessary accompaniment to ice-house and refrigerator is an ice-cream freezer. The farm usually affords an abundant supply of rich milk, fresh eggs, and fruits of the berry kind. And such delicious "teas," simple of preparation, may be common. Plain cakes with ice-cream are dessert dishes for dinner and tea far in advance of pies and puddings. The freezer is a small expense. The farm poultry pays for

We Are the Farmer's Friends.



\$10.75

078 is the number of this (exact) Piano Polished Solid Oak China Closet and \$10.75 is our price. Retailers would want \$20 for it. It measures 70 inches high, 38 inches long, and the improved beveled edged plate glass measures 16x6 inches. All the shelves are movable.

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Our Household.

HINTS AS TO COLORS.

THE colors worn have more to do with the general appearance than most people imagine. Some think it no matter what colors are worn so long as they are fashionable; but what a mistake it is to violate good judgment in order to keep up to the demands of fashion.

Many a handsome costume faultless in fit has been ruined by its want of harmony. Will we never learn to select the colors most becoming to us and avoid the ones which bring out our defects?

Black-eyed Susan, with her raven locks and brown skin and bright cheeks, should know better than to wear black, even though it be most becoming to her brown-haired sister with gray eyes and fair skin. A costume of black is too severe for Susan; she should choose rather warm dark browns, clarets, deep rich ambers and creamy white—no pale cold color for her, if you want her to look her prettiest.

Now Susan's mother, with her black eyes, black hair and pale or sallow skin, will find black, relieved with white, very becoming; also dark warm shades of gray, flame color or dark reds. Perhaps her youngest daughter resembles her father in looks and is so fortunate as to have brown hair, gray or hazel eyes, and a fair complexion: if so, she may wear any of her sister's costumes with a wider range of colors—many colder tones, etc.

Persons with chestnut hair, fair skin and blue eyes may wear any color fancy dictates, excepting mauves and pale, undecided colors. She may revel to her heart's delight in all the shades of pink, blue, red, lilac, green and brown.

Others with the same shade of hair and possessing hazel or gray eyes and a dull complexion, sometimes pale, otherwise sallow, may wear yellow-greens, blacks, light blues, purple, deep cream, some shades of red and olive-green combined with pale pink.

Every girl should early learn what colors she can wear advantageously, and then let her resist the colors suitable to her opposite. Because Mary looks well in her dull red jacket is no evidence that you will, unless you have Mary's complexion. You never thought of that, did you? Remember, my dear girl, you must take this into consideration, for no difference how pretty a color is in itself, or how becoming to your opposite, it will only make a fright of you. Strange as it may seem, many otherwise intelligent women select the colors which are to make or mar their beauty with less deliberation than the average man gives to the style of his neckties.

Of all colors, black, though properly speaking black is not a color, is becoming more and more popular, particularly among young people. A black costume faultlessly fitted and trimmed with jet is indeed most stylish, but not becoming. Black, particularly black cloth, casts deep shadows about the face and throat. One artiste in dress declared that a woman could not afford to wear black after she was twenty. This is an extreme view, yet it is a wise plan to select a soft-toned fabric. But if you must wear black, let fair women who wish to look younger and fairer choose the dead, lusterless materials like wool or velvet; remember, too, that a plain fabric, good of its kind, is better than a more showy variety of a poorer grade, for a cheap black is an abomination in the eyes of man and a constant embarrassment to the mind of woman.

LOUISE HOUSTON.

HINTS ON ETIQUETTE.—CALLING-CARDS.

Every lady in polite circles of society has learned that printed cards are in bad taste, and that engraved cards are preferable, but only the written ones permissible.

The latest card is thin, not glazed; but has a dull surface. The engraving should be done in script. The address should appear in the lower right-hand corner and the reception-day in the left-hand corner. It is in good form to write with pencil both of these, even if the name be engraved, but it is much handsomer to have it all engraved. The eldest daughter, as soon as she has made her debut, has her own card engraved in the following manner:

MISS GRAHAM.

The husband and wife can use the same card thus:

MR. AND MRS. DUDLEY.

The business and visiting card of a man must be entirely distinct: the same with a business woman.

Announcement-cards that are sent out after a private wedding are engraved thus:

MR. AND MRS. SMITH-ANDERSON
ANNOUNCE THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER
GRACE
TO
HENRY STEPHENSON,
SEPT. 5, 1897, AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.
AT HOME OCTOBER 23D, 207 WEST CHESTNUT.

Persons in mourning do not need cards, as they are not supposed to meet for some months—say six; then they should have similar cards, only with a black border.

The fashionable hour for calling is between three and half past five o'clock in the afternoon; the length of time fifteen minutes.

When one moves to a new town or city the proper time to call upon them is in about two weeks. It is in bad form to neglect to return the first call; you need not make the second unless agreeable.

Evening calls can be made between half past eight and nine o'clock. A gentleman should send up a card to the young lady's mother if he calls in the evening. If the young lady has a visitor, send up a card to her also. After attending a reception or party at a home, make a call, if possible, in a week. Never neglect this.

SARA H. HENTON.

BLUE LETTERS.

We are always grumbling about the hardship of writing so many letters, but we do not stop to think what a mercy it is that letter-writing materials are so abundant and so inexpensive.

Our grandmothers made their own ink, sharpened their own quill pens, and paid so dearly for those blue and rose tinted gilt-edged sheets on which they indited their love-letters to our grandfathers and those fascinating little wafers of crimson and silver with which they sealed them that writing letters was a luxury. Our grandfathers sometimes had to pay as much as a bushel of wheat to get one of these precious letters from the postman, but they did not complain.

For a long while no one in all England knew how to make anything but coarse brown paper; then the Huguenots came flying to them for life and liberty, and brought with them the secret of making fine white paper. What a great day that was for England! Still the luxury of blue letters was undreamed of until one day there happened a curious accident.

During the last of the eighteenth century the wife of an English paper-maker, doing her usual washing, dropped a bag of powdered blue into the vat which contained the pulp for her husband's paper. In a fright the poor woman kept the secret to herself, while her husband was astonished beyond measure at the color of his paper. Finding no great harm done, the wife ventured after awhile to tell of the accident with the bag of blue. On taking his paper to London the man received four shillings extra a bundle for the improved quality of the paper. So great was his delight at the success of his wife's bag of blue that he surprised that good woman with an elegant new cloak.

To-day America leads the world in the manufacture of paper, which fact should encourage us to write the very best of letters.

FRANCES BENNETT CALLAWAY.

VARIOUS PRACTICAL HINTS.

If your clothes-wringer wears out it can be mended at home. I fixed mine. It is a spring roller, and the under roller split, but after awhile the wringer was pronounced "done." I removed the rubber, leaving the iron bare, then took stout twine and wrapped it over, smoothly tucking the ends in after several layers of twine; then strips of muslin. The wringer performs as well as ever after this treatment.

Last winter, in a spell of "below-zero" weather, the frost opened a good many cans of tomatoes; my family being small and not very fond of tomato sauce, this wholesale opening was not looked upon with much favor. On surveying the devastation the idea was suggested, "Why not make 'ketchup' and 'tomato butter'?" For the "ketchup" put tomatoes in a granite kettle to boil on the stove; to every quart add half a cupful of sugar, half a cupful of vinegar and a tablespoonful of mixed spices, ground; boil down one half,



No amount of argument can convince the experienced, honest grocer that any other soap will give his customers such general satisfaction as Ivory Soap. He knows that they prefer Ivory Soap to new kinds, of unknown quality.

Ivory Soap will sell because the people want it, the other soaps may look like Ivory, but his customers want the real thing—they may buy a new soap once to try it, but they come back again and again for Ivory Soap, and they insist on having it.

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For tomato butter one cupful of sugar and a teaspoonful of ground cinnamon to every quart; boil down one half. The results were so pleasing that my family was not sorry that Jack Frost visited us.

I want to tell the FARM AND FIRESIDE family of some repairs which I made with a few cents' worth of putty. A mischievous boy had made a hole in a new granite basin; this hole was filled with putty, and when dry the basin was useful. The same treatment was applied to two granite kettles that needed mending. Then an old wash-tub was made water-tight; even the churn that sometimes leaked was cured by an application of putty, and two chests in the attic had sundry cracks in their lids stopped up with putty to keep out dust and moths. Holes in the wall or floor or hearth can be filled with putty to make a smooth surface before painting.

If you break any dishes at your house, the chickens and turkeys will appreciate the breakage if you pound it rather fine; they appear to like it better than pounded oyster-shells.

AUGUSTA MILLER.

PINEAPPLE DESSERTS.

Pineapples are not only refreshing and appetizing when served fresh, canned and as marmalade, but can be made the basis of a greater number of attractive, rich and wholesome desserts than any other variety of fruit—even strawberries.

PINEAPPLE TAPIOCA.—Cover three tablespoonfuls of tapioca with cold water, and let stand three hours. Drain and put in a farina boiler with two cupfuls of milk, and cook one hour, or until the tapioca is clear and soft. Pare a large, ripe pineapple, extract the eyes, halve, cut out the core and grate two cupfuls; add three fourths of a cupful of powdered sugar, stir till the latter is dissolved, and put in a glass serving-dish. Five minutes before taking the tapioca from the fire add the well-beaten yolks of two eggs and half a cupful of sugar, and stir constantly. Let cool a little, then pour over the prepared fruit, and serve cold, with whipped cream or meringue piled on top.

PINEAPPLE BAVARIAN CREAM.—Shred fine two heaping cupfuls of ripe pineapple, and cook in its own juice fifteen minutes. Strain, add one cupful of sugar, and stir until it is dissolved. Cover one half a box of gelatin with cold water; when soft add one cupful of boiling water, stir till dissolved, and strain into the fruit syrup. Put in a deep bowl set in cracked ice; whip

one pint of cream, add to the mixture in the bowl, and stir carefully until well blended and partly congealed. Then pour into a buttered mold and stand in a cool place to harden. Serve with whipped cream or grated pineapple in a rich, simple syrup.

PINEAPPLE TARTS.—Bake deep tart-shells; fill with grated sweetened pineapple just before serving, and heap whipped cream on top.

PINEAPPLE ICING.—Boil one cupful of granulated sugar and five tablespoonfuls of pineapple-juice until it spins a thread. Beat the white of one egg to a stiff froth, add one half a teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and gradually pour the hot syrup over, beating constantly, and continue beating until cold and stiff. With grated blanched almonds this makes a delicious layer-cake filling.

PINEAPPLE DUMPLINGS.—Pare and shred one ripe pineapple; sprinkle sugar over, and stir until it is dissolved. Make a dough as for baking-powder biscuit, roll into a thin sheet, cut with a large round cutter, heap two tablespoonfuls of the pineapple drained from the syrup in the center of each, and form into round balls with the hands. Add enough water to the pineapple syrup to make two cupfuls; bring to a boil, add one tablespoonful of butter, and thicken with two tablespoonfuls of corn-starch dissolved in cold water. Put the dumplings in a pudding-dish, pour the sauce over, cover, and bake twenty-five or thirty minutes. Serve hot with its own sauce.

PINEAPPLE ICE-CREAM.—Pare and grate one ripe pineapple; add one cupful of sugar, and stir well. Put two cupfuls of milk in a double boiler, and when scalding hot remove from the fire; add two well-beaten eggs and one cupful of sugar, and stir until the latter is dissolved. Add two cupfuls of cream and the syrup from the pineapple, and freeze; then add the pineapple, turn the crank five minutes rapidly, remove the dasher, cover, and let ripen an hour or two before serving.

KATHERINE B. JOHNSON.

"The second volume of 'American Women,' writes Mrs. A. E. Bredow, Greensboro, North Carolina, 'I find to be even more attractive than the first volume. I am charmed and delighted with 'American Women,' and find your confidential instructions full of good points for the agents. I will now send for my first lot of books. Bear in mind my second order will be larger.'"

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Full descriptions and directions—as the number of yards of material required, the number and names of the different pieces in the pattern, how to cut and fit and put the garment together—are sent with each pattern, with a picture of the garment to go by. These patterns are complete in every particular, there

being a separate pattern for every single piece of the dress. All orders filled promptly.

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No. 7378.—LADIES' BLOUSE WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust.



No. 7312.—LADIES' AND MISSES' SHIRT-WAIST. 10 cents. Sizes, 32, 34, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. Misses', 12, 14 and 16 years.



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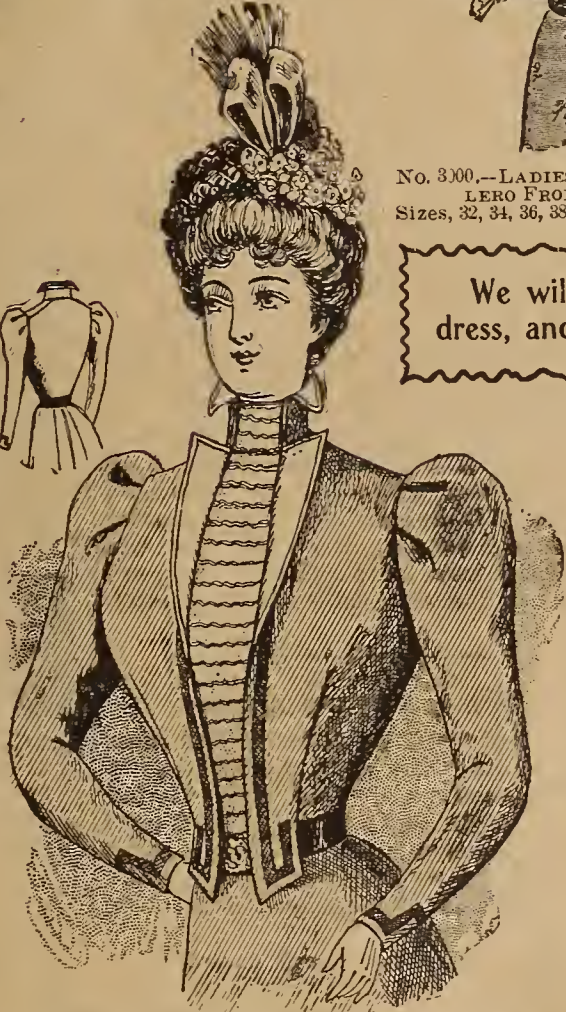


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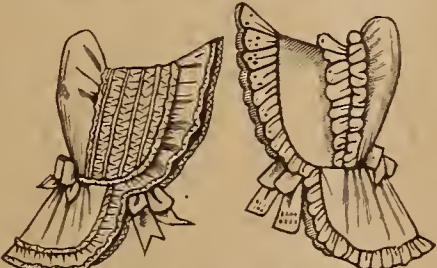


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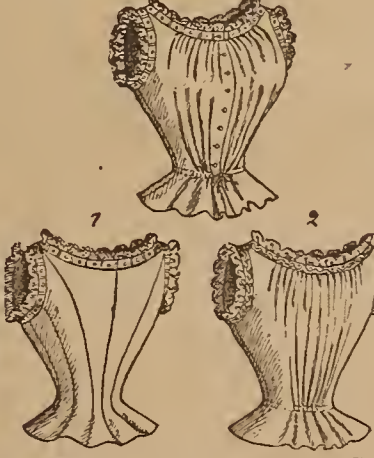
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\$5 LOWEST—\$35 HIGHEST

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RUBBER GOODS of every description. Cat'g free. Edwin Mercer & Co., Toledo, O.

Our Sunday Afternoon.

MY MOTHER'S MEMORY.

There is one bright star in heaven
Ever shining in my night;
God to me one guide has given,
Like the sailor's beacon-light,

Set on every shoal and danger,
Sending out its warning ray
To the home-bound weary stranger,
Looking for the land-locked bay.

In my farthest, wildest wanderings
I have turned me to that love,
As a diver 'neath the water
Turns to watch the light above.

—John Boyle O'Reilly.

"GRIT."

CYRUS W. FIELD once invited General Mitchell to address a Sunday evening meeting of newsboys. The sight of the shoeless, ragged, weather-beaten little fellows seemed to arouse all the sympathies of the good general's heart.

"Boys," he began, "when I see you I feel that I am one of you. No one of you can be poorer or more friendless than I once was. I have known all about being poor."

No wonder all the eyes in the room were fastened on him. He then told the boys this story:

"When I was a boy of twelve years of age I was working for an old lady for twenty-five cents a week, and I tell you she kept my hands full! I used to saw wood, milk the cows, carry water, make fires, wash dishes and scrub and scour before the day's work commenced. My clothes were awfully ragged, and I had no money to buy shoes with, and so I often went barefooted. One morning I hurried and got through my work early. The old lady thought I hadn't done it, and was very angry, and called me lazy, and said I hadn't worked any. I said I had. She called me a liar. I tell you, boys, I felt indignant, and I told her she should never have a chance of applying that ugly word to me again. I walked out of her house, and I never entered it again. I had not a cent in my pocket that day when I faced this big world! You couldn't tell what I did then? I met a man with a team. I addressed him boldly and asked him to hire me to help him. He looked at me and said that he didn't think I would be of any use to him. 'Oh, yes, I will,' said I. 'I can rub down and water your horses for you, and do a great many things for you if you will only let me try!' He didn't object any more, and told me to get up and ride. It was hard traveling; the mud was deep, and he was on a long journey. But that was my starting-point in life. I went ahead after that. An independent spirit, push, an honest purpose, and what capacity God had given me, carried me successfully through. Now, boys, don't be afraid. What if you are poor and have few friends? Try again and again. You can push through if you only live to please God. I know it's hard times for you, but trust in Christ, and he will always be your friend. Keep a good heart, and be sure you push your way honestly through the world."

THE VALUE OF URBANITY.

Many years ago the late Dr. Shippen, of Philadelphia, left his house in early morning and was hurrying down the street when he noticed a singular and ferocious-looking man, whose gaze was fastened upon him. With instinctive politeness and bonhomie he smiled, raised his hat and passed on, when suddenly he heard a shot. Turning, he found that the stranger had just left his home with the insane intention of killing the first man he met. He was the first man; but his absolute fearlessness and constitutional as well as cultivated courtesy had put the man off his guard, and the next passer-by had caught the bullet intended for him. That smile and bow had saved his life.

When the country was a century younger and the Indian was yet in the land, a gentleman upon the then frontier was hunting with friends, got separated from them, and completely lost his way. Every effort to retrieve his steps led him still further into the wilderness, and night overtook him in a dense forest. Overcome with fatigue, he lay down under a tree and

slept profoundly. In the morning he awoke with a start, with that indescribable feeling that some one was looking at him, and glancing up, he saw that he was surrounded by hostile Indians, and that the leader of the band, in war-paint and feathers, was bending over him in no amiable mood.

He took in the situation at a glance—knew his immediate danger, and had no means of averting it; neither did he understand a word of their language. But he was self-possessed, knew the universal language of nature, and believed that even under war-paint and feathers "a man's a man for a' that." He fixed his clear, bold eye upon the Indian, and—smiled. Gradually the fierceness passed away from the eye above him, and at last an answering smile came over his face. Both were men—both were brothers—and he was saved. The savage took him under his protection, brought him to his wigwam, and after a few days restored him to his friends. Courage, self-command and tact had gained the day.—Lippincott's.

"MARSEILLAISE" ENTHUSIAST.

Nothing of the kind in this world can be more impressive than the way in which an audience of 6,000 French Radicals receives that wonderful air, the "Marseillaise." I observed that the chorus of young men who led the singing never once looked at the notes, and few even had any, so familiar was it to all. There was a perfect hush in that vast audience, while the softer parts were sung; and no one joined even in the chorus at first, for everybody was listening. The instant, however, that the strain closed, the applause broke like a tropical storm, and the clapping of hands was like the taking flight of a thousand doves all over the vast arena.

Behind those twinkling hands the light dresses of the ladies and the blue blouses of working-men seemed themselves to shimmer in the air: there was no coarse noise of pounding on the floor or drumming on the seats, but there was a vast cry of "Bis! bis!" sent up from the whole multitude, demanding a repetition. The moment the first verse was sung through for the second time several thousand voices joined in the chorus; then the applause was redoubled, as if they had gathered new sympathy from one another; after which there was still one more great applauding gust, and then an absolute quiet.—Atlantic Monthly.

BUY FRUIT INSTEAD OF CANDY.

"I wish," said the doctor the other day, as he watched a group of school-children troop out of a candy-store, where they had been spending their pennies, "that I could form a society among the little folks in which each member would take a pledge to spend all his pocket-money for fruit instead of candy?"

It seemed a funny way of putting it, didn't it? But the physician was very much in earnest, and at that moment it probably occurred to him that, as children like clubs, an anti-candy club would be a very good one for them. He wanted to do two things—to stop their eating the unhealthy sweet and to coax them to eat more fruit. An apple or a banana or an orange can usually, one or the other of them, be bought for the price of a little candy, and the fruit is much better in every way than the sweet.—New York Times.

KEEP EVERYTHING IN ORDER.

General George H. Thomas said to his soldiers: "Boys, keep everything in order, for the fate of a battle may turn on a buckle or lynch-pin." Victor Hugo said: "A chip under the foot of a soldier may cause the tide of battle to turn." It was not the force and courage of the soldier that won the victory; it was the condition of the arms, together with the courage and force of the soldier, that brought victory. Courtesy has often been like the grain of faith that can pluck up trees and remove mountains. St. Philip Neri owed not a little of his singular influence to his rule of never turning anybody from his door. It is said of him that he would allow himself to be interrupted even at prayers, if some one came who wanted to see him. Fuller says that William, Earl of Nassau, won a subject from the King of Spain every time he put off his hat.

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MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN ANSWERING ADVERTISEMENTS.

Smiles.

AS UNCLE HIRAM SAID.

I like to see a man 'at has the proper kind o' heart,
Who pities weaker fellers an's inclined to take their part,
Who never says 'at Might makes Right in every sort o' fray,
I like to slap him on his back an' speed him on his way.
But Uncle Hiram ust to give this sage advice to me:
"My hoy, the under dog should allers have your sympathy,
It shows your heart is right; hut let me tell you, 'fore I stop,
If you're goin' to bet your money, bet it on the dog on top!"

It's only right and proper you should deeply sympathize
With the dog 'at in the scrimmage glts the dust rubbed in his eyes.
You jes' can't help a-hopin' he'll turn out the winner yet.
But don't let hopes mislead you when you go to make a bet.
As Uncle Hiram ust to say: "My boy, it's shorely right
To cheer the under dog, 'twill maybe help him in the fight!
But listen what I tell you, this suggestion lemme drop.
If you're goin' to bet your money, het it on the dog on top!"

Plague take a mau who allers sides ag'in the poor an' weak.
It shows his heart's created small, perhaps it run to cheek!
The man who for the under dog displays his sympathy
I like to pattern after since he's jes' the man fer me.
But then, as Uncle Hiram said, a-meanin', oh, so much!
It's right to give the under dog your sympathy an' such;
But doin' that you'd better right there let your feelin's drop—
If you're goin' to bet your money, bet it on the dog on top.

—Puck.

RULES OF A MONTANA HOTEL.

In a little mining-town up in Montana there is a hotel in which there is posted a notice to guests which reads as follows:

READ THIS.

Guests of this hotel will please bear it in mind that we will not be responsible for either their lives or their property. There are places convenient where valuables may be deposited for safe-keeping, and where life and accident insurance policies may be secured.

Guests are requested to use proper care and caution when shooting at each other in the dining-room, as a reckless discharging of firearms is liable to result in the unnecessary killing of innocent and unsuspecting parties.

Guests will be expected to pay for whatever tableware they break in throwlug at one another. This rule will be insisted upon.

If guests have any complaint to make regarding the conduct of waiters, they will please not come to us about it. The waiters carry pistols, and are supposed to know how to use them, and they will settle all their own difficulties.

Guests must not put their feet on the tables, especially if ladies are present. The act may be harmless enough, but there are fastidious people who object to it, and we are here to cater to the highest and most refined class of society.

Guests who are not willing to sleep in the same bed with another guest need not stop at this hotel. We do not care for the patronage of people who want the earth, with the moon thrown in, for one dollar.

This hotel positively will not hear any part of the funeral expenses of people who get killed while stopping here—not even of those we are forced to shoot in the interest of society and good order.

Guests wishing to attract the attention of a waiter are requested to call or whistle for him. This is better than shooting him through the ear or nose and, besides, it will save funeral expenses.

The public will bear in mind that this is no cheap house, but that it is a first-class, high-toned hotel. Therefore guests are expected to conduct themselves in a gentlemanly, well-bred manner. This will be strictly insisted on, even if it be necessary to resort to the use of our guns.—Harper's Bazar.

DRUNKENNESS IS A DISEASE.

Will send free Book of Particulars how to cure "Drunkenness or the Liquor Habit" with or without the knowledge of the patient. Address Dr. J. W. Haines, No. 439 Race Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.

"In the five successive deliveries of books thus far made, I have not had a single subscriber go back on her order. Every one likes 'American Women.' I enjoy the work better all the time, and I like the firm and its methods. My first book for keeping 150 subscribers' names is full, and to-morrow I start on the second book."—Mrs. F. M. Doolittle, Springfield, Mo.

COULD NOT BE RETURNED.

This is one of the yarns of childhood. Six-year-old Tommie was set by his eldest sister to the corner grocery to buy a pound of lump-sugar. He played allies on his way to the store, and by the time he arrived there he had forgotten what kind of sugar he was sent for. So he took home a pound of the granulated article. His eldest sister sent him back to the store to get lump-sugar. After the proprietor of the grocery-shop had made the change for the little lad, he engaged Tommie in conversation.

"Tommie," said he, "I understand there is a new member of your family?"

"Yes, sir," replied the kid. "I've got a little brother."

"Well, how do you like that, hey?" inquired the groceryman.

"Don't like it at all," said Tommie, "rather have a little sister."

"Then why don't you change him, Tommie?"

"Well, we would if we could; but I don't suppose we cau. You see, we have used him four days, now!"—Washington Star.

NEGRO LOGIC.

That famous Southern clergyman, the Rev. Dr. Porter, recently told a good story illustrating the whimsical ingenuity of the Ethiopian mind. A Southern planter who was puzzled by the disappearance of a great deal of rice found out that it had been purloined by a favorite slave. He sent for the latter, and said: "Sam, I am very sorry to discover that you are a thief and have been taking my rice." The slave smiled, and answered: "I took your rice, master; but I'm no thief." "How do you make that out?" came the query. "Well, master, does I belong to you, or does I not?" "Yes, you belong to me." "An' don't that rice belong to you?" "Certainly." "Well, then, if I take the rice and eat that rice it belongs to you still. It hasn't gone away from you, and no other man's got it, and so I couldn't have stolen it, could I?"—Evening Wisconsin.

A GOOD EXCUSE.

A New England rural school-teacher received the following note from the mother of one of her pupils during "sugarin' time:"

"Dear Mam—Please excuse Cyrus William for not coming yesterday which he would of done only he was down to the sugar-lot and he fell into a pan of syrup that had just been hoiled down and which was still warm hut not hot enough to burn him. But he went in all over and such a mess you never see hair an all. He had to go through three tubs of water and then go to bed while I washed out his things. So he wasn't there. So please excuse, also he would some ruther you didn't mention to anybody that he fell into the sap, he hein' some sensitive and not wishing to be rigged about it."—Harper's Bazar.

JOHN'S ASCENSION.

"John! John!" exclaimed Mrs. Perkins, "wake up! I hear a burglar down-stairs!"

Mr. Perkins jumped up hurriedly, put on his trousers and slippers and rushed from the room.

After he had been silent for a minute or two Mrs. Perkins called:

"John! John! Where are you, John?"

"Here I am," Mr. Perkins answered.

"What on earth are you doing in the attic?" Mrs. Perkins shrieked.

"Confound it!" replied Mr. Perkins, "didn't you say the burglar was down-stairs?"—Stray Stories.

EXERCISE BY PROXY.

Watkins—"How's Chumley getting on?"

Atkys—"He's suffering from nervous prostration. The doctor told him last week that he must take more outdoor exercise."

Watkins—"Well, is he doing it?"

Atkys—"In a way. He has ordered his man to walk fifteen miles a day."—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

PROGRESS.

"Willie, how did you get along at school, to-day?"

"Very well."

"Now, Willie," his mother went on severely, "don't tell stories. I heard you had to be punished."

"Yes. But it didn't hurt as much as usual."

—Detroit Free Press.

A VANISHED DREAM.

Nodd—"You don't mean to say you have already finished your country house?"

Todd—"Finished it! Why, I have been trying to sell it for the past three weeks."—Brooklyn Life.

ANOTHER VIEW.

"My son has accepted a position in Judge Hobbs' office."

"Yes; I met him when he was running his legs off getting indorsements on his application for the job."—Chicago Record.



A New York journeyman printer writes: "On Saturday last I went to see one of the best if not *the* best physician and surgeon in Brooklyn. After paying some money I owed, we spoke of my boy of ten years whom I had along with me. The boy was not feeling well, his stomach appeared to be out of order and he was getting thin. I told the doctor that I had given the boy a Ripans Tabule the night before. Then I told him what the ingredients were—rhubarb, ipecac, peppermint, nux vomica and soda—and he exclaimed 'What's that? What's that?' Upon repeating the formula he said, 'Good, very good. You could not give him anything better. The rhubarb is what he needs for the stomach, and the nux will tone up the system. Continue giving him one each night and he will be all right.' He gave me no further prescription for the boy and charged me nothing for the advice."

A new style packet containing TEN RIPANS TABULES in a paper carton (without glass) is now for sale at some drug stores—FOR FIVE CENTS. This low-priced sort is intended for the poor and the economical. One dozen of the five-cent cartons (120 tabules) can be had by mail by sending forty-eight cents to the RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, No. 10 Spruce Street, New York—or a single carton (TEN TABULES) will be sent for five cents.

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Beautifies It as By Magic.

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The Misses Bell will this month give to all who call at their parlors, a free trial bottle of their Complexion Tonic. Those who live at a distance may have a free bottle by sending 25 cents in silver or stamps to cover the cost of packing and delivering. The price of this wonderful tonic is One Dollar a bottle.

The Misses Bell's new book, "Secrets of Beauty," is sent free. It tells how a woman can gain and keep a good complexion. Special chapters on the care of the hair, how to preserve its color and luster, even to an advanced age. Also how to get rid of superfluous hair on the neck and arms without injury to the skin. This valuable book will be mailed to any address on request. Correspondence cordially solicited. Address

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O'er the land of the free and
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A new book of information and statistics on the many subjects relating to the present war. It contains Pictures of United States War Vessels and a classification of the ships in the navies of Spain and America, with definitions of naval terms used in press dispatches; also Fine War Maps of Cuba, Porto Rico, Havana and Havana Harbor, the Philippine Islands, West India Islands, and a large map of the World. We will send the Handy War Book, with history, maps and illustrations as described above, and Farm and Fireside for the remainder of this year, for 25c. Address FARM AND FIRESIDE, Springfield, Ohio.

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Miscellaneous.

A NOVEL feature of great practical value in the armor-plate furnaces at Homestead, Pa., which is certainly quite a mechanical achievement in its way; namely, the movable beds or floors, is remarked upon in the Pittsburgh "Telegraph." This arrangement was made necessary because of the great weight of the plates, the plan being to draw the bed to the outside of the furnace, so that a crane may be readily used, as the armor is much too cumbersome to be drawn in the ordinary manner. The liquid contained in the oil-tank is a mixture of crude petroleum, fish-oil and rosin, fish-oil predominating. When a plate is ready to be tempered it is placed in one of the furnaces and submitted to a severe heat, the size of the plate determining the degree of heat and the length of time required; meanwhile, the oil has cooled to a temperature of ninety to one hundred degrees. It being usually much above that, owing to frequent use. The plate is then drawn from the furnace and submerged in the tank to a depth of six or eight feet, where it is designed to remain until the oil has thoroughly cooled. At this stage it is replaced in the furnace and annealed, after this being placed in a pit and covered with cinders, thus allowing the heat to radiate uniformly.

"I hand you a list of subscriptions for WOMAN'S HOME COMPANION, all but one of them with Peerless Atlas, which I took on a little round among my people yesterday. Everybody is pleased with your magnificent offer of Peerless Atlas and the magazine one year, and so am I. Will send more names soon."—Rev. C. N. Aldrich, Orion, Mich.

"BREAKING IT GENTLY."

General Weyler has been reported as saying he did not consider it his duty to wrap up rifle-halls in wadding lest they should hurt the enemy. Spanish ministers are apparently more considerate of human feelings than is General Weyler. They are also staunch believers in the virtues of cotton wool. A crushing Spanish defeat would be too great a shock to the nerves of the Spanish people, and so the ill news is ingeniously wrapped up in wadding until it is transformed into a Spanish victory. The following diary gives the Spanish prescription for a humane method for breaking ill news to proud and excitable people:

Sunday (afternoon).—Reports received in Madrid of naval battle in the Philippines. Minister of marine "highly pleased," and telegraphs his congratulations.

Sunday (evening).—Some Spanish losses, but "greatly increased enthusiasm, in view of the fact that the American squadron was obliged to retreat."

Sunday (8 p. m.).—"Our fleet engaged the enemy in a brilliant combat. They obliged the enemy with heavy loss, to change position and maneuver repeatedly."

Sunday (10:30 p. m.).—Minister of marine announces the victory of the Spanish forces: "difficult to conceal his joyful emotions."

Sunday (11:50 p. m.).—"Spanish loss serious, but honorable."

Monday (afternoon).—"Victory of the Americans has been complete; Cavite razed to the ground; Manila in flames."

Monday (evening).—Martial law proclaimed in Madrid.—London Daily News.

THE WAR AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICA.

There is no cause for alarm if the war with Spain should broaden the scope of American intentions, even if colonial enterprise becomes an American policy. A colonial policy need not be considered as absolutely foreign to the country's welfare. The early statesman objected to it principally because the country was too weak to undertake it, and it was well recognized that future contingencies might justify it. Replying to criticism of his course in the purchase of the Louisiana territory, Jefferson said: "Who can limit the extent to which the federative policy may operate effectively. The larger our association the less will it be shaken by local passions." It need not be surprising should many of our traditions be overturned and new relations assumed toward the rest of the world. War generally brings new responsibilities to a victorious nation, and America is not likely to be an exception to the rule.—Galveston News.

A PHRASE OF COMMODORE DEWEY'S.

"You may fire when ready, Gridley." That phrase of Commodore Dewey's, as the Olympia, steaming slowly, was getting the range of her guns on the Spanish fleet, is likely to be long quoted and widely remembered. Surely, says the "Criterion," it breathes coolness, care, confidence, in the face of an enormous and pressing responsibility. Compare it with the thunder it instantly awakened, the tremendous forces it let loose, the terrific destruction that followed, and you will find it the most typical Americanism of the quarter century. Mark, too, its politeness, as well as its touch of comradeship.

ENGINEER THOUGHT THE CONDUCTOR SHOT AN ANGEL.

An engineer running over the Panhandle branch of the Santa Fe is somewhat superstitious and believes in warnings.

One night he was rolling along at a good rate of speed when he saw a clear, white light, like a will-o'-the-wisp, dancing around just over the track a few hundred feet in front of him. He shut off steam and came to a stop as quickly as he could. The conductor and train-crew came running up to the engine to see what was the matter.

"There is some one swinging a lantern across the track," said the engineer, and the crew went ahead to investigate.

"We can't find any one," reported the rear brakeman, and the engineer pulled out again, but he went slowly, and in a few minutes he stopped again. The crew went ahead once more to see what was the cause of the light. The conductor, who was a good shot, drew his revolver and at the second shot he made at the mysterious light there was a crash, a scream and the light went out and something white came fluttering down from the clouds.

The superstitious engineer was scared. "You've shot an angel, sure," he said to the conductor, with his face pale as death.

Investigation brought out the fact that a small boy with a lantern tied to the tail of his kite was the cause of it all, but it teases the engineer to say anything about "shooting angels."—Topeka State Journal.

FADING OF THE SUBSTANCE.

"John Billus, I found this photograph in the inside pocket of an old vest of yours hanging up in the closet. I'd like an explanation. Whose is it?"

"Can't you see it's an old picture, Maria? What's the use of stirring up memories that—"

"I want to know whose picture that is."

"Rather a pleasant-faced girl, isn't she?"

"I want to know her name."

"No jealous fury in that countenance, is there?"

"Whose is it?"

"It's a portrait of a girl I used to think a great deal of, and—"

"Her name, sir?"

"Well, you sat for it yourself, Maria, about nineteen years ago; but to tell the truth, I always did think the 'pleasing expression' was a little overdone. Put on your spectacles and look at it again, and then compare it with the reflection in that mirror over there, and see— What are you getting mad about?"—Chicago Tribune.

A HINT FOR CERTAIN PEOPLE.

Abraham Lincoln said to a delegation of citizens who called on him to advise about the conduct of the war: "Gentlemen, suppose all the property you were worth was in gold, and you had put it in the hands of Bloudin to carry across the Niagara river on a rope. Would you shake the cable or keep shouting out to him, 'Bloudin, stand up a little straighter; Bloudin, stoop a little more; go a little faster; lean a little more to the north; lean a little more to the south?' No, you would hold your breath, as well as your tongue, and keep your hands off until he was safely over. The government officials are carrying an immense weight. Untold treasures are in their hands. They are doing the very best they can. Don't badger them. Keep silence, and we'll get you safe across."—Pittsburg Stockman.

PATRIOTISM AND BUSINESS.

"I like this pattern well enough," said the customer, who had dropped in to look at some gingham, "but I'm afraid the colors will run."

"Run, ma'am!" indignantly answered the salesman. "Red, white and blue? They never run!"

Whereupon the woman with the flag pinned to the lapel of her jacket rose patriotically to the occasion and bought forty-five yards.—Chicago Tribune.



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768—Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey	767—Bryan and Sewell March	De Lasaide	
770—Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke	769—Flirting in the Starlight Waltz	Durkee	
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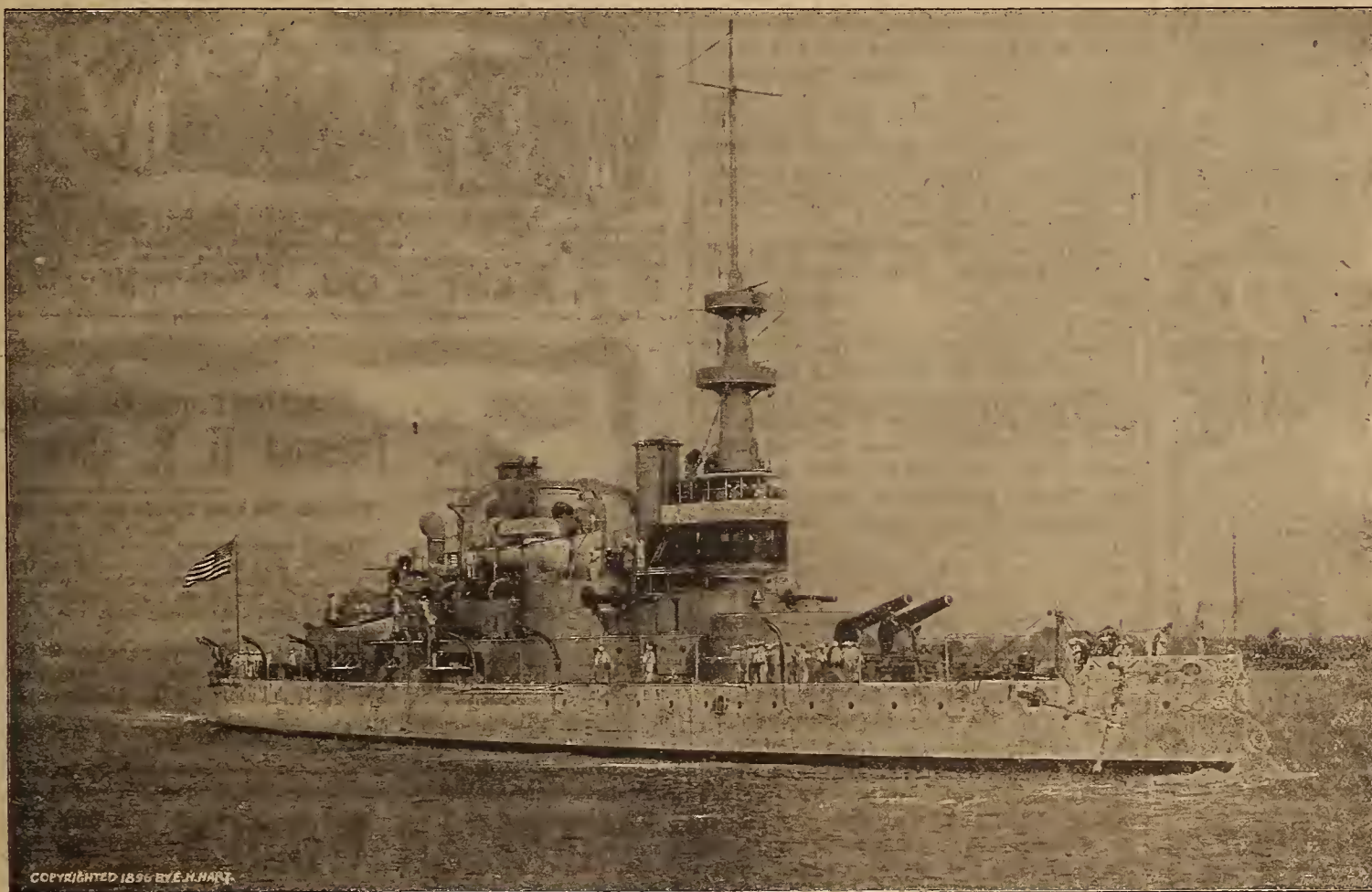
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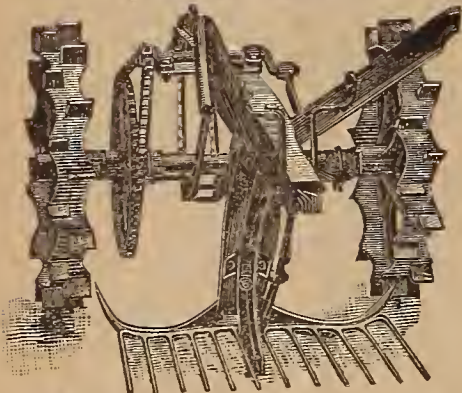
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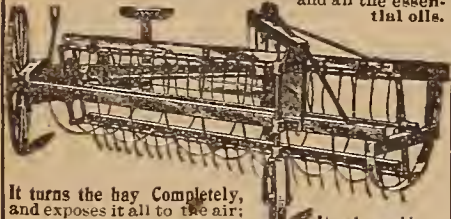


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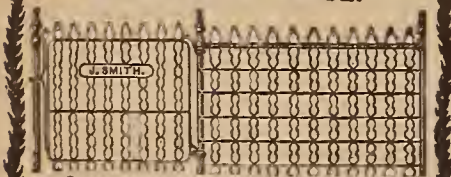
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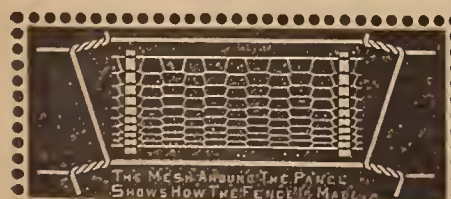


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Our Farm.

AIR DRAINAGE AS A FACTOR IN APPLE-RAISING.

It is recognized that the fruit-grower select good land for the planting of his trees; that this be well-drained, and that it be so situated as to command good shipping facilities; but it is not yet fully realized that air drainage is often a leading factor in not only the production of fruit, but also in the vigor and longevity of the trees. Proximity to a large body of open water is counted upon as an insurance against frost injury to the buds in the spring and to the ripening fruit in the autumn—the cold water in the early months chilling the air, thus preventing the hasty expansion of the buds, and the warmed water in the fall keeping the temperature of the atmosphere at a uniformly higher temperature than in similar situations where lake and river are absent. The presence of water-vapor in the air has also a marked influence upon its temperature, the condensation of this vapor liberating a vast amount of latent heat and thus warding off frost.

Apart from the influence of low temperature during the spring and the autumn, river and lake, so long as they remain unfrozen, exercise a marked protective influence upon the orchard during the winter; but when they freeze over this influence comes to an end and the locality is as unprotected as if no body of water were present. This is because (rivers and lakes occupying the low places upon the surface of the earth) the cold air settles and lodges in these depressions, being drained from the uplands in the same manner as water is. This settling of the cold air may be readily perceived in descending the slope of a land-pocket or valley. The observer may frequently notice a change without the aid of any instrument.

It has been noted that in low situations, such as mentioned, even "iron-clad" trees that have at first borne profitable crops have gradually become so weakened by the annual extremes of cold that they have lost the power to bear paying quantities of fruit. It is, therefore, always best in climates noted for low temperatures to select as orchard sites land well up above river or lake, if these are likely to freeze over for any considerable time.

Perhaps no better instances of the gradual weakening of the fruit-trees by cold can be cited than are afforded by the lowland orchards of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. Here the upland plantations, though less favorably situated as to shipping facilities either by water or by rail, have proved more profitable than the orchards of the lowlands, simply because they are exposed to less rigorous winters. The farmers in these localities have learned that they run less risk in the raising of fruit, and that their chances for profit are consequently better than in the lowlands, and are setting as many trees of choice market varieties as their means will allow. They are also doing this in the confidence that because the superiority of Northern-grown fruit, particularly apples, is gradually but certainly becoming recognized in the markets, they can therefore dispose of all that they are likely to raise, and that at the best figures. There is not likely to be a glut of first-class, well-graded fruit in any of the world's markets. The same conditions as apply in these regions also obtain to a greater or less extent in many other sections of our country. The prospective planter in any of these places should therefore not overlook them, because they may be the deciding factors on the balance-sheet.

M. G. KAINS.

LAND-LEVELER AND CLOD-CRUSHER.

Noticing description of two land-levelers in your issue of April 15th, I send you one that I have had in use for several years that gives me great satisfaction and is easily made. I use the fork of a small tree or a large limb, say six to eight inches in diameter, such as I used to use for making a "lizzard, or stone-boat." The one I am now using is the forked limb of an old apple-tree that had just the right curve in front. On the bottom nail inch-boards, put on weatherboard-fashion; on top put one or two for a platform for the driver; bore a hole through the front end to hitch the doubletree or loop a chain through the fork, and then you have it. It firms the ground, too, so that seed germinates quicker.

A. G. CHASE.

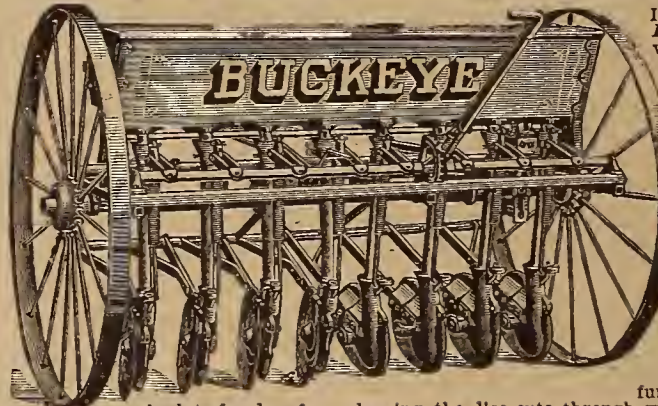
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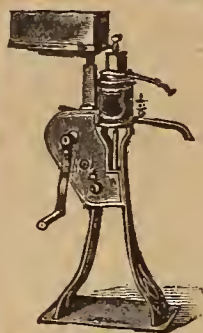
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